

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 508.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1855.

[Price 6d.]

QUEEN OF THE SEAS FOR AUSTRALIA.

To sail positively the 15th July.

FOR PORT PHILLIP DIRECT.

landing passengers at Geelong, Sydney, and Adelaide, for which a specific arrangement must be made, the remarkably fine, fast sailing, British clipper-ship **QUEEN OF THE SEAS**, A 1, at Lloyd's, 1,650 tons register.

Commander, CHARLES GARDNER.

Loading in the East India Dock.

This magnificent ship, now on her second voyage, was built expressly for conveyance of passengers to Australia. Her accommodations are fitted replete with every requisite, with the view to the comfort, convenience, and safety of the passengers, and her great length gives ample space for exercise and amusement, so conducive to health on the voyage. Passage money, 17l. and upwards.

For terms of freight and passage money, apply to HORNBY, MORAN, and PAOWSA, East India Chambers, Leadenhall-street, London.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, **TUESDAY**, the 19th inst., at Eight o'clock. A **GRAND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT** will be given by Mr. GEORGE BUCKLAND, assisted by the following eminent Artists—Messrs. T. YOUNG, MONTEY SMITH, HENRY BUCKLAND, and GEORGE LAKE, consisting of SELECTIONS from the GLEES and SONGS of the late Sir HENRY BISHOP and other COMPOSERS.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG ACRES.

A **GRAND PANORAMA OF CREATION, SCIENCE, AND CIVILIZATION**, will be OPENED, for a short time only, on **Monday next**, developing a plan of **PRACTICAL EDUCATION** for the MILLIONS, and NEW HOMES for the PEOPLE. Daily at Three and Eight (Monday Mornings only excepted). Doors open Half an hour previous.—Admission, ONE SHILLING; Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. Stalls, 3s. Children, Half-price. **MONDAYS, HALF-PRICE FOR ALL PARTS.**

TO PRINTERS.—WANTED, a YOUNG

MAN for PRESS and CASE, and who could undertake the charge of a **Mayne's Economic Machine**.

Apply, by letter, to Y. B., 15, Hill-street, Peckham, Surrey.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED,

an Experienced ASSISTANT, who understands the Woollen Trade; also, a respectable, well-educated YOUTH as an APPRENTICE to the GENERAL DRAPERY TRADE.

Apply to Sidney and Dickinson, Linen and Woollen, and General Furnishing Drapers, Wolverhampton.

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TO DRAPERS and GROCERS.—The

friends of an intelligent YOUTH, between Sixteen and Seventeen, are desirous of finding employment for him in the above, or any light business (in town or country), where his services would be regarded as equivalent to his board for the first twelve months.

Address, A. R., 71, Sun-street, Blenheim-gate.

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A highly respectable married man, without incumbrance, for many years in the general Drapery trade on his own account, wishes to engage himself as **WAREHOUSEMAN, MANAGER, COLLECTOR, SUPERINTENDENT**, or in any responsible capacity. The advertiser is healthy, active, of thorough business habits, and well qualified to fill any situation where experience and confidence are required. The country preferred. Most satisfactory references can be given.

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A YOUNG LADY, of respectable con-

nections, is desirous of meeting with an ENGAGEMENT, either as **JUNIOR TEACHER** in a School, or **GOVERNESS** to Children under twelve years of age. She is capable of imparting the usual branches of an English Education, with the rudiments of French and Music, and would be willing to make herself generally useful.

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WANTED, by a Member of an Inde-

pendent Church, who has had considerable domestic experience, a SITUATION as **HOUSEKEEPER**, whose desire would be to discharge faithfully and conscientiously the duties which would devolve upon her.

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OFFICE in the EASTERN COUNTIES.—For Cambridge and Yarmouth, at a salary of 100l. per annum; for Norwich and Ely, at a salary of 60l. per annum; for Ipswich, Lynn, Wisbeach, and Peterborough, at a salary of 25l. One month's trial will first be given.

Apply, prepaid, to A. D., 11, Astley's-road, London, stating age, history, and whether party could guarantee any given amount of business.

A GOOD INCOME.—H. J. invites attention

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(who cannot or do not like to attend classes) Assisted in their Studies by means of Correspondence, for a trifling quarterly. References as to Pupils.

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MASTERS.—Young Men TRAINED for the above Situations in a few weeks. Terms, 12s. per week; to include board, washing, and instruction. A few Vacancies. An admirable opportunity for those about to enter Normal Schools to prepare for examination under a Trained master.

Address, Robert, Post-office, Oxford.

VALUABLE AGENCY.—TO CHEMISTS,

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STURTON CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH.

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY SERVICES in aid of the BUILDING FUND will be held on **WEDNESDAY, July 13**, when TWO SERMONS will be preached: that in the Morning, at Quarter past Twelve, by the Rev. T. Binney; that in the Evening, at Half-past Six, by the Rev. I. Spence, A. M.

CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP in PARIS.

ENGLISH WORSHIP will be conducted, on and after June 17, every **LORD'S-DAY**, at Eleven A.M., and Half-past Three P.M., in the **FRENCH CHAPEL**, No. 180, RUE FAUBOURG ST. HONORE.

Ministers intending to visit Paris, and willing to assist, are requested to communicate (post paid), with Rev. John Shedlock, M.A., 11, Rue de la Paix, Paris; or Rev. R. Ashton, Congregational Library, Blomfield-street, Finsbury.

CHAPEL, SUNDAY SCHOOL, and LEC-

TURE ROOM, ST. LEONARD'S-STREET, VADHALL

The Congregation and Schools recently assembling in the SCHOOL ROOM, CAREY STREET, VINCENT SQUARE, having erected the above commodious Premises, A PUBLIC MEETING will be held on **FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 23**.

EDWARD MIAL, Esq., M.P., will preside.

The Revs. S. Martin, S. J. Pearsall, T. T. Lynch, Professor Newth, and other ministers and gentlemen intend to be present on the occasion. The Chair will be taken at Seven o'clock.

ORDINATION SERVICE, FALCON-

SQUARE CHAPEL, ALDERSGATE-STREET.

On **MONDAY EVENING, June 25, 1855**, Mr. JOHN BARTLETT (late of New College), will be ordained to the Pastoral Office, in association with the Rev. JAS. BENNETT, D.D., of the above Chapel. The Rev. JAS. BENNETT, D.D., Rev. JOHN HARRIS, D.D., Rev. JOHN STOUTON, and Rev. JAS. SPENCE, M.A., will take part in the Service. Service to commence at Six o'clock.

On the following **LORD'S-DAY EVENING, July 1, 1855**, the Rev. THOS. BINNEY will preach the Sermon to the Church and Congregation, at the above Chapel. Service to commence at half-past Six o'clock.

THE NEW ASYLUM for FATHERLESS

CHILDREN, Stamford Hill.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty the QUEEN.

Instituted May 14th, 1844.

Designed to receive and educate the Orphan through the whole period of infancy and childhood, without distinction of age, sex, place, or religious connection.

The GENERAL MEETING and the MIDSUMMER ELECTION were held on **Monday, June 19, 1855**, at the **LONDON TAVERN**, BISHOPSGATE-STREET.

The Right Hon. the **LORD MAYOR** in the Chair. The Annual Report of the Domestic and Financial State of the Charity was read; the various officers chosen for the ensuing year, and the following

FIFTEEN CHILDREN DULY ELECTED.

| | Votes. | | Votes. |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1. Ellis, Thomas | 6,654 | 9. Roch, William | 5,011 |
| 2. Greenwood, Alfred W. | 6,285 | 10. Minist, Alfred John | 5,008 |
| 3. Thies, Walter G. | 5,778 | 11. Clark, Fanny | 5,758 |
| 4. Lamb, Charlotte | 5,598 | 12. Cole, Walter | 4,683 |
| 5. Saunders, Mary Ann | 5,453 | 13. Walton, Ann-Nelson | 4,060 |
| 6. Roberts, Alice | 5,372 | 14. Nash, Mary Emma E. | 3,861 |
| 7. Dyke, Jane | 5,183 | 15. Stranack, John Wm. | 3,655 |
| 8. Baker, Benjamin | 5,173 | | |

The Chairman having declared the poll closed, it was unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the meeting be presented to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, for his kind and valuable services in the chair.

DAVID W. WIRE, J. Non. Secs.

THOMAS W. AVELING, J. Non. Secs.

Office, 32, Poultry, where Forms of Application for Candidates and Lists of Subscribers may be had gratuitously, and every information, on any day, from Ten till Four. Subscriptions most thankfully received. Post-office orders should be made payable to Mr. John Cuzner, Sub-Secretary, and addressed to the office of the Charity.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SUBSCRIBERS and FRIENDS of this INSTITUTION will be held at the **COLLEGE, UPPER FINCHLEY-ROAD, ST. JOHN'S-WOOD**, on **Tuesday, June 26, 1855**; when the Report of the Council, with the audited Accounts for the year, will be presented, and the usual business of the Annual Meeting will be transacted.

The Chair will be taken at One o'clock by the Rev. GEORGE CLAYTON, who has kindly promised to deliver an Address to the Students. Other ministers and gentlemen are expected to attend, and to take part in the proceedings of the meeting.

The attendance of Subscribers and Friends is respectfully invited.

WILLIAM FARRER, LL.B., Secretary.

C I R C U L A R.

General Post-office, June 16, 1855.

SIR,

1. As a publication, of which you are the printer, has hitherto passed through the post under the newspaper privilege, I am directed by the Postmaster-General to request your attention to the provisions of the act "to amend the laws relating to the Stamp Duties on Newspapers, and to provide for the transmission by post of printed periodical publications," which has now received the Royal Assent.

2. By this act every periodical publication printed in conformity with the several regulations therein specified, on paper duly stamped with an appropriated die, and posted within fifteen days from the date of publication, will, on and after the day appointed for the act to take effect, be entitled to the privilege of transmission and re-transmission by the post, between places in the United Kingdom, on certain conditions; among these are the following:—

First, The publication must have the title and date of publication printed on the top of every page; and

Second, It must be folded in such manner that the whole of the Stamp or Stamps, denoting the duty, shall be exposed to view, and be distinctly visible on the outside.

3. I need hardly point out that, unless the publication printed by you be a periodical publication, in every respect conformable to the provisions of the Act, it will not in future be entitled to any privilege with respect to its transmission by the post. But should you desire that the publication shall enjoy the postal privilege, I am to draw your attention especially to the two conditions just named, as being those most likely to be overlooked, and to suggest that you should advise your publisher and readers to comply with the second, so as to avoid the inconvenience that would otherwise result from its enforcement. To facilitate such compliance, I am further to suggest the importance of so printing the paper, that the stamp or stamps shall invariably fall on an outside page, and of adopting both these measures even before the new regulations become compulsory.

4. The act further provides that, to entitle a publication to the privileges connected with transmission beyond the United Kingdom, the following conditions, in addition to those already noticed, shall be observed:—

First, The Postmaster-General must be satisfied that such publication is a newspaper, or entitled to the privilege of a newspaper, within the meaning of existing treaties and arrangements with Foreign and Colonial Governments; and

Second, The proprietor or printer must register the publication at the General Post-office in London.

7. If, therefore, you desire that the publication, of which you are the printer, shall enjoy these privileges, it is necessary that you should make a written application to that effect, addressed:—

"To the Secretary of the Post-office,

(Newspaper Register), "London."

and enclosing a specimen copy, stamped with the appropriated die.

6. Your application must further be accompanied by the sum of five shillings as a fee for admission to the Register, and this payment will entitle the Newspaper to be retained on the Register until the 1st July, 1856. If the fee be transmitted through the Post, it should be by means of a Post-office Money Order, payable to Mr. Maitland Wilson Boyd, of the General Post-office, London.

7. A like fee of five shillings must be paid, in the same manner, yearly, viz. on or before the 1st June; otherwise it will be understood that the privilege in question is no longer desired, and the name of the publication will be removed from the Register at the close of the same month of June. If the arrangement due notice will be given from time to time.

8. It must be borne in mind that, even while the publication continues on the Register, the privilege of transmission abroad will be lost by any change which shall cause the publication of the characteristics of a newspaper, within the meaning of the Treaties, &c., alluded to above.

9. The Postmaster-General desires me also to state that registration will not absolutely secure any postal privilege, after the publication has left this country, as his knowledge has no power to require the Post-office of a Foreign Country, or even (with few exceptions) of a British Colony, to treat a publication as a Newspaper; thereby because it is held to be such in this country, although the fact of its being entered upon the Register will be presumptive evidence that it has a claim to be so treated.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROSLAND HILL, Secretary.

FOREST-HOUSE SCHOOL, WOODFORD.

WELLS. Conducted by Mr. G. H. WELLS, B.A., late

First Assistant-Master of Mill-hill School.

The object of this Establishment is to furnish an education based on Christian principles, and comprehending instruction in the Arts of Commerce, in the Language, and in the Sciences. Omnibuses from the City pass the house several times in the day. Prospectuses will be forwarded on application.

ROSLAND HILL, Secretary.

TEETH.—MR. EDWARD MILES,

Surgeon Dentist, 14, BEDFORD-SQUARE. The practical application of every advancement in Dental Science for the alleviation of pain and suffering, and the use of all materials of the best possible quality and construction, combined with the most recent improvements in forming Sets of Teeth, are secured in the system he has pursued for many years. At home daily from Ten till Four. 14, Bedford-square.

SARL'S ARGENTINE SILVER PLATE

IS THE BEST SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLID SILVER.

MANUFACTORY, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House), LONDON.

THIS unrivalled production continues to give the same satisfaction as when first introduced by SARL and SONS, 13 years ago. From its intrinsic value and brilliant appearance, it far surpasses all other substitutes for solid silver. A new and magnificent stock has just been completed for the present season, to which public inspection is respectfully invited. It comprises **Spoons and Forks, Corner Dishes and Covers, Dinner Covers, Epergnes and Candellabra with beautiful figures and classical designs, Tea and Coffee Equipages, Cruet Frames, Cake Baskets, Candlesticks, Salvers, Tea Trays, Decanter Stands, Liqueur Frames, Tea Urns and Kettles, Soup and Sauce Tureens**, with every article requisite for the Dinner, Tea, or Breakfast Service. Pamphlets, containing drawings and prices of all the articles, gratis, and sent postage free to all parts of the kingdom. Any article may be had separately as a sample.

SOLE INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS,

SARL and SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

SARL and SONS, WATCH MANUFACTURERS, 18 POULTRY (near the Mansion House), invite attention to their new and very extensive stock of **GOLD and SILVER WATCHES**. The patterns are of the latest style, and the movements of the most highly-finished description. Every make can be had. The following prices will convey an outline of the Stock, combining economy with quality:—

| | Gold Cases and Dials. | Silver Cases. |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Watches of the Horizontal make, jewelled in four holes, main- taining power, 1st size | £ 10 0 | £ 2 10 0 |
| Do, 2nd size | £ 10 0 | £ 3 3 0 |
| Do, 3rd size | £ 10 0 | £ 3 10 0 |
| Patent lever movements, detached escapements, jewelled in four or six holes, 2nd size | £ 9 0 | £ 3 18 0 |
| Do, with the flat, fashionable style, with the most highly-finished movements, jewelled in ten extra holes, 3rd size | 14 18 0 | £ 5 18 0 |

A written warranty for accurate performance is given with every watch, and a twelvemonths' trial allowed. A very extensive and splendid assortment of fine gold neck-chains, charged according to the weight of sovereigns.

A pamphlet, containing a list of the prices of the various articles in gold and silver, may be had gratis.—Address,

SARL and SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

BOARD and EDUCATION for YOUNG GENTLEMEN—164. per annum. No extras except Books and Laundress. Food unlimited, and of best quality. A good library.
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THE MIDLAND SCHOOL, near Coventry.
"An effort to make education what it should be."
Apply to Mr. Wyles for papers.

23, CROWN-STREET, READING.
ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES,
by Mrs. S. W. KILPIN and Miss FULLER.
Testimonials, References, and Terms, upon application.

HOPE HOUSE ACADEMY
WOODFORD-GREEN, ESSEX.

The Rev. W. BURNETT continues to receive a Limited Number of **YOUNG GENTLEMEN to BOARD and EDUCATE**. Woodford is celebrated for its salubrious air, elevated situation, and gravelly soil.
Prospectuses forwarded on application.

BOCKING, near BRAINTREE, ESSEX.
ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES. Conducted by Miss BOOSEY. The Pupils receive the benefit of careful training, and a liberal education, with the comforts of home. Terms moderate. Reference to Ministers and parents of pupils. A Vacancy for a Parlor Boarder and Governess Pupil.

COLLEGE HOUSE ACADEMY, SOUTH-GATE, MIDDLESEX. Conducted by Mr. M. THOMSON. This Establishment will be RE-OPENED on Tuesday, July 17, 1855. Terms (including Latin, French, and washing), Twenty-five to Thirty Guineas. French taught by a native of Paris. Lectures occasionally given on Chemistry and other subjects. Premises spacious and airy, possessing great advantages requisite for health, comfort, and recreation. Food unlimited, and of the best quality. References of the highest respectability will be sent on application.

WEST of ENGLAND DISSENTERS' PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, TAUNTON.—Principal, Rev. T. CLARK, M.A.
The Pupils are prepared by an efficient course of instruction and training for commercial or professional life. Special attention is given to their moral and religious education.
Terms, including School-books, from Twenty-four to Thirty-two Guineas per annum.
J. S. UNDERWOOD, Secretary.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
PLYMOUTH, conducted by Mr. R. F. WEYMOUTH, M.A. (of University College, London), M.R.A.S., &c., &c., assisted by well-qualified and experienced Masters.
The Course of Studies pursued at this Establishment is suitable as preparatory either for a College Course, or for Professional or Commercial Life.
The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing.
Terms, from 35 to 45 guineas per annum.

CLASSICAL and COMMERCIAL SCHOOL
—Conducted by Mr. T. H. CARRIER, 19, NEW WALK, LEICESTER.

TERMS FOR BOARDERS.
Above Ten years of age, per annum 30l.
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THE Rev. NATHANIEL JENNINGS, M.A., receives into his House, in AVENUE-ROAD, ST. JOHN'S WOOD, London, a small number of PUPILS.

The Educational Course comprises Instruction in the Holy Scriptures and the Principles of Christianity; in Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and History; in the English, French, German, Latin, and Greek Languages; in the Elements of Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Conic Sections; and in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy.

Terms: For Pupils under Twelve years of age, Fifty-five Guineas; and above that age, Sixty-five Guineas per Annum. Hampden House, Avenue-road, St. John's Wood.

HATFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.
Hatfield is situated within thirty-five minutes ride from London (by the Great Northern Railway, King's-cross).

The course of instruction pursued in this establishment has obtained the approbation of parents and guardians; and ensured the solid improvement of the pupils.

Particular attention is paid to the formation of moral and intellectual habits, based upon a system of gentle and paternal discipline.

The system of Education embraces the Classics, Mathematics, and the French Language, History, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Use of the Globes, Elocution, Music, Drawing, and Drilling; and is adapted either for the learned profession or commercial life.

Every facility is afforded to the pupils of attending lectures, which are given every alternate week, on Astronomy, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy.

The school is well situated, and the air remarkably salubrious. The house is commodious and airy, with a large garden and playground, adjoining the Park and Baronial Mansion of the Duke of Salisbury, in which the pupils are kindly permitted to play at cricket, with other amusements.

German Language taught by an eminent professor.
Terms: Boarders, 24 Guineas a year; Weekly Boarders, 18 Guineas a year inclusive.

Rev. D. EVANS, Principal.
References to the Pupils' Parents.

EDUCATION for YOUNG LADIES,
King-street, Leicester.—The MISSES MIAL, whose school has been established for many years, continue to receive a limited number of Young Ladies for **BOARD and EDUCATION**. The best masters are engaged for French, German, Drawing, Music, Singing, and Deportment.
References: Rev. G. Legge, LL.D., Leicester; Rev. J. Sutcliffe, Manchester; W. Sunderland, Esq., Ashton-under-Lyne; Rev. J. G. Miall, Bradford; Rev. G. R. Miall, Ullesthorpe; and E. Miall, Esq., M.F., Sydenham-park, London.—Terms and full particulars on application. The ensuing quarter will commence on the 2nd of April.

LEICESTER.—GENTLEMEN'S SCHOOL.
Mr. FRANKLIN receives PUPILS to Board and Educate, from the age of ten. In addition to Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, which are carefully taught, the course of instruction includes many subjects of useful and general information. The modern languages and the accomplishments are taught by able masters. An eminent Professor attends from London to lecture on Chemistry. Individual and anxious attention is bestowed upon the characters of the Pupils; and their comfort is consulted in all the arrangements of the family. The general terms are Forty Guineas a year.

Reference may be made to the parents of pupils who are now or were formerly in the school; among others, to J. Mellor, Esq., Q.C., Recorder for Leicester; S. Stone, Esq., Town Clerk, Leicester; J. J. Hollings, Esq., Leicester; Rev. Dr. Winalow, Leamington; Rev. T. R. Barker, Spring-hill College, Birmingham, &c.

LADIES' ESTABLISHMENT, STANBURY TERRACE, TEWKESBURY. Conducted by Mrs. HEWETT. The course of instruction comprises the various branches of a thorough English Education, with Music, French (taught by a lady who has recently resided on the Continent), Drawing, Deportment, &c. The house is delightfully situated in the environs of the town, with gardens and lawn attached, which are enjoyed at pleasure by the pupils during the hours of recreation. The recess will terminate on July 19th.

References kindly permitted to Humphrey Brown, Esq., M.P., Rev. H. Walsford, Rev. T. Wilkinson, Tewkesbury; Rev. T. F. Newman, Shortwood; Rev. J. Hyall, Gloucester; Rev. Morton Browne, LL.D., Cheltenham; Rev. W. H. Murch, D.D., London; Rev. C. Stovel, London; Rev. W. Brock, London; Rev. T. Swan, Birmingham; Rev. F. Trestrail, Secretary to the Baptist Mission; Rev. J. Angus, M.A., M.R.A.S., Stepney College; Lindsey Winterbottom, Esq., Stroud.

HOLLY TREE HOUSE, THE BROAD-WAY, PLAISTOW, ESSEX.

The MISSES SMITH (late of Mornington Crescent, Regent's-park) inform their friends that their scholastic engagements will recommence on WEDNESDAY, JULY 25th, when they will be prepared to receive a few additional Pupils.

The earnest efforts of the Misses Smith are directed to the intellectual and religious improvement of their Pupils, and to the promotion of their personal comfort. Terms moderate.

Reference to the Rev. J. C. Harrison, Camden-town; W. S. Edwards, City-road Chapel; J. Buckpitt, Great Torrington; Alfred Hone, Moy, Ireland; Thomas James, Yelvertoft; Edwin Harrison, M.A., Redbourne Vicarage; J. G. Silght, M.A., Taxall Rectory; T. Ramsbottom, M.A., Walmersley Parsonage; H. Linthwaite, M.A., West Walton; Vincent Smith, Esq., Brighton; P. Smith, Esq., Bradfield Hall; Robert Johnston, Esq., Camden; J. Jackson, Esq., New Brighton, Liverpool; Charles Wyatt Smith, Esq., Poplar; and parents of Pupils.

CRAUFURD HOUSE CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL and CHEMICAL SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

Mr. PEARCE has pleasure in announcing that the increase of his Pupils has led to extensive alterations and enlargement in Craufurd House, combining every arrangement for convenience, comfort, and health. During nine years, medical attendance has been required once. The various branches of polite and useful learning are taught in the most approved, expeditious, and effective methods. Discipline is maintained, and good habits are formed, by careful training and vigilant superintendence. The Pupils speak French constantly; many as easily as English. German is spoken. There are Singing and Drawing Classes. A Band of Music is being formed. Science is taught experimentally. The younger pupils are under special and appropriate management.

The vigour, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm in cricket, gymnastics, swimming, daily rambles, and frequent excursions into the neighbouring country, attest the scope and encouragement afforded to the development of boyish feelings and physical strength.

The Terms are from 30l. to 40l. per annum. References of the highest respectability will be sent on application.

SYDENHAM—PERRY-HILL HOUSE

SEMINARY—Principal, Mrs. J. W. TODD.—This establishment offers a complete English education; the best instruction in Latin, German, Italian, and French, by native professors; and Drawing, Painting, Music, &c., by the first masters. The system of Tuition pursued recognises the diversified native capabilities of the pupils, and is adapted to develop their individual energies and give them confidence in exercising their own power of thought and inquiry—and, by forming their characters on the basis of intelligent religious principle, to fit them for their missions and responsibilities in life. The Mansion and grounds are elevated and secluded—situated in a most lovely and healthy locality—and in a position to command all the educational advantages furnished by the PALACE OF AIT. Full particulars by Post.

References:—H. Brown, Esq., M.P., Tewkesbury; Apsley Fellatt, Esq., M.P., Staines; Mrs. Clara L. Balfour, Paddington; the Revs. Dr. Redford, Worcester; Dr. Andrews, Northampton; Thomas Thomas, Pontypool College; F. Trestrail, Secretary to the Baptist Mission; A. M. Stalker, Leeds; J. P. Mursell, Leicester; S. J. Davis, London; T. Winter and G. H. Davis, Bristol; J. J. Brown, Reading; C. J. Middleditch and S. Manning, Frome; J. Purser, Esq., Rathmines Castle, Dublin; J. Toone, Esq., Salisbury; Daniel Pratt, Esq., London; H. and W. Todd, Esqrs., Dublin; J. C. Salisbury, Esq., City-road.

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 503.]

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE NERVOUS GENTLEWOMAN.

IF there is any one class of persons more to be pitied than another, it is that of delicate and ailing old ladies. They are never happy unless on the fret. You never meet them, but they either have been, or are, exposed to some serious physical disturbance. If you leave the door ajar, they are sure to be horrified at a certain prospect of rheumatism. If you carefully shut out from them all external air, they are fearful lest they should be struck down with apoplexy. Nothing agrees with them; in revenge for which, they agree with nothing. To such a pitch of coddling have they habituated themselves, that they can bear no change without some consequent suffering. The discontinuance of wearing a gold watch-chain round the neck subjects them to a sore throat; they cannot lay aside a finger-ring for a day or two without catching cold. They are to be pitied, we say; first, for their nervous fancies, which torment themselves even more than others; next, for the uselessness to which such fancies condemn them.

The Church of England, as nursed by the bishops, appears to be equally squeamish and susceptible. She has undertaken no less than the spiritual cure of all souls in England and Ireland, and it is not her own fault if she has not assumed responsibility for those also in Her Majesty's Colonial dominions. But she cannot bear any change which will adapt her to fulfil her mission. She complains that her children are growing up in ignorance—that something must be done for them, if only to prevent their increasing estrangement. She moaningly laments over evils with which she has not nerve enough to grapple. Propose to her the smallest possible alteration in her habits of life and action; and, though the good to be effected by it be ever so great, she recoils from the proposal with absolute dismay. She has a horror of all things new. Circumstances vary from age to age, but she must not deviate a hair's breadth from ancient routine, inapplicable and preposterous as it may have become. She still celebrates the "martyrdom" of Charles I., and gives thanks for the restoration of Charles II., as if the Stuart dynasty had continued enthroned to this day. And she cannot surrender the Conventicle Act of George the Third's reign, albeit she is the principal sufferer from its foolish restrictions.

Our readers will perhaps have noticed that a Bill, introduced by Mr. Kinnaird, on the subject of Religious Worship, passed through the House of Commons without a division on any of its stages, and almost without discussion. The object of it is to repeal that portion of the 52nd George III., which prohibits, under penalties, the assembling of more than twenty persons above the number of a household, for religious worship in any house not registered for that purpose. The restriction has become practically obsolete—but it operated indirectly in preventing pious persons, especially of the Established Church, from imparting religious instruction to the outcast poor so freely as they otherwise would. School-room and cottage lectures, city missionary operations, and other

modes of reaching the lowest classes with the truths of the Gospel, are not only unecclesiastically irregular, but are actually illegal—and if the penalties for infringing the law are seldom, or almost never, enforced, the laudable reluctance of many to defy a law yet unrepealed, and the dread of others to subject themselves to punishment, hamper the desires of truly good men to be spiritually useful to their more degraded fellow-subjects. To the Christian enterprise of Nonconformists the Act offers but trifling impediments—for it is competent to them to register the place in which they assemble the poor for public worship. But it is a serious bar to the religious activity of Churchmen, for it is necessary for them to obtain a bishop's license. But bishops never sanction irregular methods of saving souls; and hence, to put themselves under the protection of law, and exempt themselves from exposure to penalty, lay Churchmen must pave the way to lay preaching, by declaring themselves Dissenters. As the *Times* has pithily put it, "the Church will have none of them. It will have none of those 'prophets' and 'preachers' who occupy so distinguished and mysterious a place in the records of revelation. Such persons there are everywhere, always have been, and ever will be; but they are not tolerated in the Church of England. It leaves no place for them, and will not recognise their vocation, except to expel them."

Now, might it not have been rather reasonably anticipated that such an obsolete legal obstruction to spiritual usefulness, to the evangelisation of the poor, and particularly to the extension of Church of England influence, would have been removed as soon as pointed out? Such was evidently the feeling of the House of Commons, who deemed it scarcely necessary even to discuss Mr. Kinnaird's unpretending but self-recommendatory measure. Not so, however, the conclave of Bishops. Before the bill had got through its latter stages in the House of Lords, these overseers of the flock detected peril to the Church lurking beneath its modest enactments. They agreed unanimously that it would overturn the parochial system of the Church of England. It would give an unoccupied clergyman, or a zealous layman, the right of entering a neglected parish, in despite of its authorised parson, and of attempting to rescue from spiritual ignorance or unconcern, hundreds of his parishioners by unauthorised efforts. Better far that men should perish, than that any breach of ecclesiastical etiquette should be sanctioned—or if the penalties of the law were not enforced, better far that they should be hung up in *terrorem*, to scare away intrusionists, than that the Legislature should venture on any change. So, on a motion for the recommitment of the bill, it escaped by a majority of one only—and, subsequently, a motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee, where it will probably be defeated by delay, was carried—the bishops voting in both instances against the "Liberty of prophesying."

Why, what an unfit and inadequate instrument must this Church of England be, even on the showing of its own dignitaries, wherewith to evangelise the world! If her discipline is endangered by such small changes, how is she likely to adapt herself to the ever-varying circumstances of the people and the age? But, in truth, she has ever been more alive to the exclusive rights of her priesthood than to the pressing wants of her children. To maintain intact inordinate clerical pretensions, she has heretofore sowed the kingdom with religious discord, plied with unsparing severity the scourge of persecution, and put up without remorse with spiritual stagnation. No experience can teach her rulers wisdom. She has all the instincts of a close corporation in the possession of ample funds—and those instincts she continues to nourish at any cost. The Earl of Shaftesbury and the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird have much disagreeable truth to learn in their praiseworthy efforts to restore vitality and freedom of action to the Establishment. What if time and events should disclose to them the fact

that the main hindrance to the usefulness of the Church they venerate, lies in her connexion with the State, and that to enjoy liberty she must surrender her dowry? Stranger and more unlooked-for changes have occurred, for truth is generally found in the highway of action.

THE LATE REV. JOHN BLACKBURN.

Death has just deprived the Independent body of one of its first-class teachers in the person of the minister of Claremont Chapel, Pentonville, who expired early on Saturday morning last, in his sixty-fourth year. Up to the 1st of the present month, he had continued to discharge his duties with marks of personal debility, but with unimpaired intellectual vigour. It is, however, now known, that for three years he has suffered from a complaint which must have greatly affected him, though it is understood that gastric fever was the immediate cause of death.

Mr. Blackburn was one of that host of public men whose career of usefulness has been commenced in the Sunday-school, and his attachment to Jewry-street Chapel, with which he and his parents were connected, led him, we understand, in subsequent years, to purchase and hold the building for several years. He first studied in the Baptist College at Stepney, being transferred to Hoxton, on his views on the subject of baptism undergoing a change. For a time he served the Irish Evangelical Society in Ireland, and was then settled, in 1815, at Finchfield, in Essex. Claremont Chapel, the work of Thomas Wilson, was opened in October, 1819; and in the following March, Mr. Blackburn was present when a small number of individuals constituted themselves into a Church; but it was not until May, 1822, that he accepted an invitation to become its pastor. His success was rapid and decisive, one of the largest chapels in London soon being crowded, a debt of 7,000*l.* being cleared, and the Church presently numbering many hundred members. He had just completed thirty-three years spent in their service.

Highly successful as a pastor, he was scarcely less so as a public man, in connexion with the Independent body. He assisted in originating the Congregational Union, and for years was its Secretary. He edited the *Congregational Magazine*, almost from the first, and, the *Congregational Year Book*. His competency to deal with facts and figures, and his readiness of speech and pen, gave him a leading place in all the public movements of the body, and probably no man in it surpassed him in his store of historical data illustrative of Nonconformity, or was more apt in drawing upon it to meet the circumstances of modern times. When the occurrence of painful events in his personal history necessitated his withdrawal from official life, he directed his energies into new channels, delivering lectures on Nineveh—for which Mr. Layard has himself expressed personal gratefulness—editing the *Biblical Educator*, and corresponding with American and Canadian journals. His anxiety for the spiritual welfare of the poor and working-classes was attested by his untiring labours as an Evangelist while located in Essex, and still more, on his removal to London, by his initiation of the Christian Instruction Society, and his arduous services for years as one of its secretaries. Quite lately he had, both at meetings at the Congregational Library and in his own church, with marked earnestness, pressed the necessity for adopting new expedients to bring the mass of the population within the reach of the Gospel. Declaring that he could no longer rest content with labouring in the pulpit, he proposed to preach outside as well as inside his chapel, and also, by way of experiment, to throw it open on Sunday afternoons for the delivery of lectures, of an indirectly religious character, and to be illustrated by diagrams. Denied the satisfaction of carrying out these designs, he was yet permitted to take his place once more among his ministerial friends, and to receive their cordial welcome, while his Church and congregation were every month increasing in number and in capacity for usefulness.

It was agreed on all hands that as a Christian teacher and as a pastor Mr. Blackburn was one of the most accomplished men in Nonconformist circles. He was never brilliant and seldom eloquent; but his mind was thoroughly stored with information, which he imparted with a constancy, an aptness, and a freshness, which made all who statedly heard him feel thankful for his instruction. "No one ever heard one of John Blackburn's sermons without learning something," was, in substance, a criticism frequently to be heard from those who came in contact with him. His thorough preparedness and painstaking were marked in every portion of his ministrations; his expository readings often, we believe, costing him far more labour than his sermons. His style was unconventional, and his language terse and direct, while both in prayer and preaching, he manifested a complete acquaintance with passing events, and a sympathy which took a wide range. During the last eighteen months, in particular, we are told, that his references to public occurrences, always made in good taste, at times thrilled his hearers, from their earnestness and vividness.

The manner of his death affectingly illustrated the idea, on which he had more than once expatiated in the pulpit, that death must be faced alone! A natural sensitiveness, combined with nervous irritability, made it almost necessary that, during the last days of his life, he should be in comparative solitude. He appeared to realise the idea of preparation for a severe conflict. But he was calm and resigned, and bore a dying testimony to the value of the consolatory truths which he had so long and so faithfully enforced.

His remains are, we learn, to be interred in Abney-park, on Friday at three, service being held in the chapel previously, at half-past twelve. The funeral sermon is to be preached on Sunday evening by Dr. Bennett.

OUR CHURCH-RATE RECORD.

CHEADLE.—A few days ago, a meeting was held at the village of Cheadle, near Stockport, at which the churchwardens, acting on the suggestion of the vicar, proposed to lay a Church-rate. The vicar himself had written a letter justifying the imposition of such a tax, but was not present, and the chair was taken by the curate. Cheadle is an extensive parish, having but a small population in the village where the church is situated. There was a strong opposition mustered against the course proposed by the churchwardens. Mr. Henry Coppock, solicitor, of Stockport, became the exponent of the feelings of the opposition, and having addressed the meeting, an amendment adjourning the proceedings was carried by a large majority. The rate thus defeated, the church clock has been stopped, and the curfew bell no longer rings.

IRAWAD.—There has lately been a contest in St. Clement, Ipswich, the largest in the town, resulting in the refusal of the rate by a majority of 175 to 137.

MARGATE.—At a vestry meeting in this town, on the 14th inst., the Vicar, the Rev. T. C. Astley, A.M., in the chair, the senior churchwarden, G. Y. Henton, Esq., asked for a rate of twopence in the pound. The Rev. James Crofts objected, on legal grounds, to all the principal items in the estimate, and completely succeeded in enlisting the suffrages of the parishioners on his side, so that the several particulars of gas-lighting, insurance, collector's salary, clock, and in the fell sweep even the bread and wine for the sacrament. Washing the surplice, &c., were disallowed, and an expenditure of only about 30*l.* passed, instead of that estimated as heretofore at about 250*l.* Upon the collector's salary being "cut off," the churchwarden declared his utter inability and disinclination to collect the rate, and the consequent necessities of going on with the remaining items. The vicar himself, however, proceeded to read and put *scriptum*, to the meeting the several points, which were one by one rejected by large majorities. It was then proposed that a twopenny rate be laid, when an amendment was made by the Rev. W. B. Davies, Baptist minister, in the following terms:—

That in the opinion of this vestry, the Voluntary principle is adequate to meet all the requisite demands of Christian worship, and therefore rejects the proposed compulsory Church-rate, as being manifestly unjust in its bearing upon conscientious Nonconformists, and a keen reflection upon the Christian liberality of the attached members of the Established Church of England.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Sharp, Primitive Methodist. The Rev. H. Beckley, the respected pastor of Cecil-street Independent Church, who was to have taken part in the amendment, was compelled by circumstances to leave before it came forward. It was carried by a large majority, and a poll was then demanded on behalf of the churchwardens, for taking which, Monday and Tuesday in the following week were appointed.

MORTLAKE.—In this parish another important step has been taken towards abolishing Church-rates and establishing the Voluntary principle. The High Church party, discontented with the proceedings of the last Easter vestry, which recommended the churchwardens to endeavour to raise a voluntary subscription instead of Church-rates, called another vestry meeting to reconsider the recommendation; when Mr. Penkryn moved, and Lord Fitzroy seconded, a resolution, that the former recommendation be set aside, and the churchwardens be requested to provide for the wants of the church by rates in the usual way. To this Mr. J. Doulton, jun., moved an amendment, that the recommendation of the Easter vestry be confirmed,

and that the churchwardens be requested to endeavour to raise a voluntary subscription, and thus prevent the agitation of the question of Church-rates in this parish. The Church party had gathered their strength, but, in a full vestry, the amendment was carried by a majority of two, thus confirming the previous decision. The churchwardens nevertheless ungraciously signified their intention to propose a Church-rate at the usual period, and not to accept the voluntary principle till it should be forced upon them—Query, with what face can they then avail themselves of it?

LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

STOCKPORT.—On Tuesday, June 6th, a meeting convened by circular was held at the Orchard-street school-room. Rev. H. Clark was called to the chair, and after tea the meeting was addressed by the Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. W. H. Smith, from London, and Rev. and Messrs. Thornton, Martin, Buckley, J. Yates, and others. A committee and secretary were appointed to further the object of the society.

WREXHAM.—A numerous and respectable meeting assembled in the Music-hall in this town on the evening of the 12th June, to listen to the statements of the Rev. E. S. Pryce, and Mr. W. H. Smith, from London. Rev. T. Brooks was in the chair, and Revs. J. Clark and J. Davies, Charles Darby, Esq., and Christopher Bentham, Esq., took part in the proceedings. A committee was appointed to correspond with the society in London.

LLANGOLLEN.—A meeting was held here on Thursday evening, the 14th inst., at which the Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. Smith were present. Rev. J. Pritchard presided, and the speeches delivered were alternately in Welsh and English. The audience appeared greatly interested in the information received.

OSWESTRY.—A public meeting was held in the British School-room in this town on Friday evening, the 15th inst., attended by the Rev. E. S. Pryce as deputation. Mr. Roberts was in the chair, and the meeting was addressed by the Revs. D. Matheson, A.B., and D. Crompton. Proceedings are being taken to establish a working auxiliary.

FLORAL DECORATIONS AT ST. PAUL'S, KNIGHTS-BRIDGE.—It having been stated that the Bishop of London had sanctioned, after due inspection, the floral decorations of this mediæval edifice, a parishioner has sent an elaborate letter to the papers supporting an opposite conclusion. The bishop condemned these floral and other Puseyite decorations; and Mr. Westerton, in accordance with that decision, has already removed some of the most offensive of them.

THE GORHAM CASE REPEATED.—A correspondent of the *Plymouth Journal* reports another case of tyranny on the part of the Bishop of Exeter, who has refused to countersign the testimonials of the Rev. G. Hadow, on his nomination to the living of St. Just in Penwith, recently held by Mr. Gorham. This arbitrary exercise of power is the more unjustifiable from the fact that Mr. Hadow has ministered in the diocese for six years as incumbent of St. Andrew's, Plymouth, without any impeachment against his orthodoxy which the Bishop now calls in question. Lord Cranworth, the patron, has determined to present Mr. Hadow notwithstanding; but the question will be finally raised upon the application for letters of institution.

THE NEW BILL ON EPISCOPAL AND CAPITULAR ESTATES.—The new bill, as amended in Committee, to make better provision for the management of episcopal and capitular estates, is printed. The Bill now contains twenty-eight clauses, and bears the names of the Marquis of Blandford and Lord Robert Grosvenor. The object of the bill is to give extended authority to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to render the estates and revenues more productive and beneficial to the Established Church. It is also considered by the preamble that the alterations proposed would be "conducive to the spiritual welfare of the people, and that such arrangement should be made as to secure annual incomes to archbishops and bishops in a manner most befitting their spiritual character." With this view, the Estates Committee of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are to execute the powers of the act. The estates of the Church of England are to be managed by the commissioners. An agreement may be made with the commissioners and bishops with regard to the payment of their incomes out of the revenues placed at their disposal. It is proposed to empower the commissioners to place tithes in certain cases under the management and control of bishops. A general report of the commissioners is to be sent annually to the Secretary of State. The commissioners are to be empowered to receive evidence as to ecclesiastical corporations and other matters, and to produce all documents before them. The commissioners are to keep separate accounts as to each corporation under their management. The new law is to take effect on the 1st January next.

Religious Intelligence.

BOND-STREET CHAPEL, LEICESTER.—On Wednesday and Thursday, June 6 and 7, services were held in Bond-street Chapel, on occasion of the public recognition of the settlement of the Rev. R. W. M'All, as pastor of the Church and minister of the congregation in that place. Mr. M'All, as our readers are already aware, has removed to this town from Sunderland. The first service was on Wednesday, when, after devotional exercises by the Rev. T. Mays, a sermon, exhibiting the great aims of the Christian ministry, was preached by the Rev. Samuel M'All, of Nottingham, uncle of the newly elected pastor. On Thursday morning, the service was opened by the Rev. Dr.

Legge, and the Rev. Thomas Toller, of Kettering, delivered a discourse exhibiting the principles of Congregational Independency. On its conclusion, Joseph Cripps, Esq., presented an interesting detail of the election of the new minister. The Rev. R. W. M'All was then asked for a similar statement. His reply combined allusions to his early days, and the honoured name of his father (the late Dr. M'All, of Manchester,) with the expression of deep attachment to his former charge, and of his motives, purposes, and hopes, on removing to Leicester. The Rev. James Gawthorn, of Derby, now more than four-score years of age, affectionately commended pastor and people to God. The morning service was completed by the address to the pastor, delivered by his former tutor, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, President of the Lancashire Independent College. The Rev. G. Lomas closed the engagement with prayer. In the evening, the chapel was densely crowded, to listen to the address to the Church and congregation. The Rev. J. P. Mursell conducted the devotional exercises, and the Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, with his characteristic and unabated energy, preached the sermon. The Rev. R. W. M'All concluded the day's services, which were throughout distinguished by the utmost solemnity and interest. In the afternoon, a large assembly sat down, in the Wellington-hall, to dinner. The company included more than thirty ministers, comprising, besides those mentioned, several resident in Leicester, and many from the surrounding district. A number of ladies, also, were present. Joseph Cripps, Esq., senior deacon of the Church in Bond-street, presided, and was supported by H. F. Coleman, Esq., Thomas Nunneley, Esq., Joseph Swaine, Esq., and other gentlemen. In the course of his opening speech the chairman referred to the able exposition of Protestant Nonconformity, given that morning by the Rev. Thomas Toller. That gentleman rose, and reiterated his convictions of the scripturalness of congregational polity. The Rev. George Miall expressed the wish that Mr. Toller would consent to the publication of his discourse, which proposal the chairman heartily approved. Dr. Vaughan was next called upon, and gave a vivid sketch of the early connexion of Leicester with the history of religious liberty; observing that there were Protestant Nonconformists in this town in the age of Wickliffe. In conclusion, he called upon the assembly to remember the times in which they live, exhorting them to the combination of working with waiting. The chairman introduced the Rev. R. W. M'All, in the most kind and cordial manner. Mr. M'All briefly responded, stating his earnest desire, as a minister, to commend himself to every man's conscience, as the sincere friend of the poorest and most careless in our large population. Dr. Raffles warmly congratulated the pastor and the Church. The chairman introduced Mr. Thomas Oliver, of Sunderland, a member of Mr. M'All's former Church who testified the unanimous regard and affection of that Church to its late pastor. After a few congratulatory words from Mr. Gawthorn, and the Rev. Mr. Wallis, the interesting proceedings terminated.

BEDFORD NEW TOWN CHAPEL, ST. PANCRAZ.—On Tuesday evening, the 15th inst., the new school-room, measuring sixty feet by thirty-eight feet, adjoining this place of worship, was opened, when about three hundred persons sat down to tea. The chair was taken by Eusebius Smith, Esq. Prayer was offered by the Rev. A. Stewart, of Palmer House, Holloway, after which the chairman delivered a most suitable address, expressive of his unabated interest in the work of God at Bedford Chapel, and his satisfaction at the amount of good which has already been accomplished in connexion with it. The Rev. John Rogers, the minister of the chapel, then proceeded to read an interesting document, containing an account of the rise and progress of the Church and congregation, and of the various institutions associated with the chapel. Addresses were subsequently delivered by the Revs. James Fleming, T. W. Gittens, J. C. Harrison, T. G. Horton, Dr. Massie, W. Roberts; and E. Charrier, Esq. The Rev. John Davies then concluded the engagements of the evening by prayer. On the three following days, a bazaar was held in the new school-room, in aid of the Building Fund. Though it was the fifth held in the neighbourhood within a few weeks, not only was it numerously and respectfully attended, but its proceeds were satisfactory.

CRAVEN CHAPEL.—At a numerous special Church meeting, held for the purpose, the Rev. John Graham, of Dublin, was unanimously invited to accept the pastorate of the chapel, rendered vacant by the recent retirement of the Rev. Dr. Leifchild. Mr. Graham cordially accepted the invitation: The chapel is now closed for repairs and alterations, &c., and Mr. Graham will commence his ministry by re-opening it on the first Sabbath in July.

FETTER-LANE CHAPEL, LONDON.—The Rev. Samuel March, of New College, St. John's-wood, has accepted the cordial and unanimous invitation of the Church assembling in the above place to become its pastor, and is expected to commence his labours on the second Sunday in July.

DULWICH CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, PARK-ROAD.—This elegant and commodious building was opened for public worship on Thursday, when the following services were held. In the morning, the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, M.A., delivered an impressive evangelical discourse. In the afternoon, Apsley Pellatt, Esq., M.P., presided over a public meeting, when a report of the proceedings of the building committee was read. The balance-sheet of the treasurer showed that a considerable debt yet remains to be liquidated. Appropriate resolutions were submitted to the meeting. The Revs. J. Burnett, Dr. Hewlett, J. C. Hine, W. Tiddy, and G. Pullen, and W. G. Franks, Esq., took part in the proceedings. In the evening, the Rev. G. Smith, of Poplar, preached. The Revs. Messrs. Rowe, the pastor of the Church

Eldridge, Dr. Hewlett, Tiddy, J. C. Hine, and Gilbert, took parts in the devotional services of the day. Though the weather was very unfavourable in the morning, the attendance and collections were encouraging.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CONFERENCE.—The fifty-ninth Conference of the Methodist New Connexion commenced its sittings in South-street Chapel, Sheffield, on Monday, the 28th ult., and terminated on Tuesday, the 5th inst. After the retiring addresses of the ex-president and the opening speech of the President elect, a lengthened correspondence was read between the Lynn Wesleyan Reformers and the annual committee, with reference to the union of the former with the New Connexion. It appears that the Lynn circuit consists of thirteen chapels, five preaching places, 501 members, and about 2,000 hearers. The union was consummated by a series of resolutions. The next day the report of the annual committee was read, containing the correspondence between that committee and the special committee of the Reformers, relative to an amalgamation of all the liberal Methodist denominations. It appears that the Reformers made the acceptance of their declaration of principles by the Methodist New Connexion the especial condition of union. The committee of the latter body, perceiving that this would completely destroy their present form of government, and be equivalent to the abandonment of some of the great principles for which they have made so many sacrifices—in fact, that it would simply lead to their absorption by the Reformers—made a counter proposition, to the effect that the principles of the Methodist New Connexion should form the basis of the union. They also proposed the appointment of a deputation, for the purpose of mutual explanation. The Reformers refusing to accept the principles of the New Connexion, refused the appointment of the deputation, and at once broke off the correspondence. Various other matters of merely denominational interest were referred to in the report. Subsequently, the application of the York Methodist Reformers to be received into the Connexion was considered. They number one hundred members, with a congregation of about three hundred and fifty. They have 250 Sabbath scholars, and about fifty-five teachers. They had raised upwards of 600*l.*, and proposed building a chapel forthwith. A series of resolutions were passed, admitting the applicants into Connexional union, making them a grant of 500*l.* towards the building of their chapel, and constituting York a home missionary station for the next twelve months. From the report of the Chapel committee, read during the sittings, it appeared that the sum of 2,198*l.* had been appropriated to the payment of chapel debts during the year, making a total of 35,741*l.* paid in liquidation of the debts on chapels during the last eight years.

OPEN AIR PREACHING AT BRIGHTON.—An "Open-air Preaching Association" has been organised at Brighton, the object of which is, "to proclaim the Gospel, by means of voluntary agency, to the multitude of Sabbath strollers." The association is established on the most catholic basis, and it is most earnestly hoped that Christians of all denominations will give it their sympathy and support. Already, a station has been occupied on the Beach, at the bottom of Bedford-square, on Sabbath afternoons, with very encouraging success; all persons being members of any Evangelical denomination and holding the cardinal doctrines, are eligible as members of this association.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES AND THEIR BANKERS.—The stoppage of Messrs. Strachan's bank at first created a feeling of alarm with respect to the various societies which kept accounts with that firm. It now appears that the older religious societies—such as the Bible Society, Church Missionary, Jews, Pastoral Aid, &c.—all kept their accounts with firms in Lombard-street; and are therefore little, if at all, affected by the failure. Two others—the Labourers' Friend and the Towns' Mission—were indebted to their bankers, and therefore suffer no loss by the stoppage. The Protestant Alliance had a small balance at the bank, but not to such an amount as to create any serious embarrassment. The same remark applies to the Martyrs' Church, on account of which only a few small sums had been paid in to the bank. The Protestant Conference had nearly exhausted its funds, and its remaining balance did not much exceed 100*l.* The Protestant Defence Association had also expended so much on its operations as to be in debt to its treasurer. We learn that the Pure Literature Society and the Shoe Blacks' Association have lost their little all. The Clerical Education Aid Fund loses about 180*l.* The Colonial Church Society loses about 400*l.* or 500*l.* But the principal sufferer is the Irish Church Mission. This society makes monthly payments to its agents, which payments amount to nearly 3,000*l.* each month. Of course, it has to collect together this sum in the course of the preceding month. Up to Saturday last, it had got together nearly 1,500*l.* towards the July payments; and of this sum it is at once deprived.

THE EDUCATION OF THE PEASANTRY.—A very neat, substantially built, lofty, and commodious new school-room was opened in the village of Launton, near Bicester, Oxon, on the 7th inst., for the use of the Independent day and Sunday-schools, evening classes, &c. The day was fine, and the company very respectable. About eighty-five persons took tea together in the school-room and chapel-yard in the afternoon, and a large company met at the chapel in the evening. J. Grubb, Esq., late Sheriff of Oxford, presided at the evening meeting, and very telling addresses were delivered by the chairman and the Revs. W. Selbie, T. B. Attenborough, Edwin Green, and also by Thomas Atkins and F. Faulkner, Esqrs. The sum of 48*l.*, including 5*l.* from the chairman, in addition to 1*l.* previously subscribed by him, and 17*l.* by

the Rev. W. Ferguson and his friends, was raised at the meeting. All who have seen both the new chapel and the new school-room have greatly admired them; they are an ornament to the village, and a real credit to all who have aided in their erection. The Congregational Independent Dissenters have now new property and out of debt in the village of Launton worth about 700*l.* The deeds have been enrolled in the legal form, and all is now secured to the denomination of which the Launton Dissenters are a fruitful branch. No other village, or even small market town within thirty miles of Launton can rejoice in a better Dissenting chapel and school-room than the Dissenters of that poor parish of 700 inhabitants. The State Church, also, has its Sunday and daily-schools, and a living worth about 800*l.*

THE JOHN WILLIAMS.—The missionary ship John Williams entered the Thames on the 10th instant, after a quick and prosperous voyage of one hundred days from the Society Islands. The missionary party on board consists of the Rev. Charles Hardie and Mrs. Hardie, from Samoa; the Rev. John Barff and Mrs. Barff, from Huahine; and, including their families, twenty-four children of missionary brethren, who are sent to be educated in this country.

THE REV. BREWIN GRANT.—On Sabbath, May 13, the Rev. Brewin Grant, B.A., preached two eloquent and impressive sermons, in the Independent Chapel, Wigton, to large, attentive, and delighted audiences. On the evening of the same day, and also on Monday evening, he preached at Bolton Gate; and on Tuesday evening, at Boltonlow-houses. At both places, but especially at Bolton Gate, the place of meeting was crowded almost to suffocation. On Wednesday, the 16th, and two following evenings, Mr. Grant lectured at Wigton, on Secularism and Christianity. The attendance each night, but especially the last, was very large. The lectures, which were most instructive and logical, will be long remembered. At Wigton, and other places in the country, there is a strong desire that Mr. Grant should deliver a second course of lectures, a proof that his last were highly appreciated.—*From a Correspondent.*

THE REV. WALTER SCOTT.—On Sunday last, the Rev. W. Scott announced to his people his intention to resign his pastoral charge. We are sorry to learn that Mr. Scott has been led to this decision by failing health. For some time past, we believe, Mr. Scott has felt the duties devolving upon him as President of the College and pastor of the Church to press unduly upon his strength, and at length he has yielded to a necessity which his friends felt the force of long ago.—*Bradford Observer.*

Correspondence.

THE REV. DR. HEWLETT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly permit me a few lines to give denial to a falsehood that is excessively disgusting and annoying to me. It has been asserted by Dr. Hewlett, the author of a book entitled "Facts without Fiction," that I am the author of an unfavourable notice of that work which appeared in your columns some time ago; and to this Dr. Hewlett adds, that there is "no man living more indebted to another than I am to him"—that "my position, now, or hereafter, is due to his influence." In reply to the first part of the statement, I beg to say, and you perhaps know, that I did not write a line or word of the notice of which Dr. Hewlett complains. Of the second part, I have merely to say, that it is an *impudent lie*. I not only owe nothing to Dr. Hewlett's friendship, but I am happy to say that I have no acquaintance with him whatever, and never had. I have never spoken to him but *once* in my life, and that was on the top of an omnibus, in one or two sentences, when returning from Cheshunt College Anniversary, in 1846 or 1847.

I am sorry to trouble you with this, but I know no other way of contradicting the false and injurious statement that I am under any obligations to, or have any personal knowledge of, Dr. Hewlett.

I am, yours faithfully,

GEO. B. BUBIER.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Administrative Reform, in favour of, 7.
Church-rate Abolition Bill, in favour of, 4.
Education (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 26.
—against, 11.
—for alteration, 1.
Free Schools' Bill, in favour of, 2.
Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, 2.
—on Lord's-day, 22.
Lord's-day, for opening British Museum on, 1.
Marriage-law Amendment Bill, in favour of, 40.
Maynooth College Act, for repeal of, 18.
Nuisances Removal Amendment Bill, for alteration, 1.
Poor-law, for amendment of, 1.
Public-houses (Scotland) Act, for extension to Ireland, 8.
Secretary of State for Scotland, in favour of, 4.
Sunday Trading (Metropolis) Bill, in favour of, 26.
—against, 45.
—for alteration, 9.
War, for termination of, 3.
Court of Session (Scotland) Bill, against, 1.
Elective Franchise, for giving to Income-tax payers, 1.
Factories, for further limiting the hours of labour, 2.
Maynooth College Act, for repeal of, 7.
Medical officers (Navy), for improving their condition, 6.
Public Prosecutors' Bill, in favour of, 1.
Sale of Beer Act, for repeal of, 9.
Tenants' Improvement Compensation (Ireland) Bill, in favour of, 2.
—for alteration, 1.
Ballot, in favour of, 1.
Billeting Soldiers, against, 1.
Fisheries (British Islands and France) Bill, against, 5.
Licences, against alterations of present system, 2.
Schools (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 3.
Metropolitan Buildings Bill, for compensation, 2.
Partnership Amendment Bill and Limited Liability Bill, against, 1.

Piers and Harbours (Scotland) Bill, for alteration, 4.
—against, 1.
Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill, against, 1.
Regium Donum, for discontinuance of, 1.
Dissenters' Marriages, for amendment of law, 1.
Nunneries, for placing under inspection, 1.
Public Health Bill, for alteration, 2.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Consolidated Fund (10,000,000*l.*) Bill.
Court of Exchequer (Ireland) Bill.
Roman Catholic Charities Bill.
Cambridge University Bill.
Union Charges Act Continuance Bill.
Ramegate Harbour Bill.
Rating of Mines (No. 2) Bill.
Youthful Offenders (No. 2) Bill.
Huddersfield Burial-ground Act Amendment Bill.
Christchurch (Tadmorden) Marriages Validity Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Justices of Peace Qualification Bill.
Victoria Government Bill.
New South Wales Government Bill.
Waste Lands (Australia) Act Repeal Bill.
Consolidated Fund (10,000,000*l.*) Bill.
Court of Exchequer (Ireland) Bill.

BILLS CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Sunday Trading (Metropolis) Bill.
Dwelling Houses (Scotland) Bill.
Validity of Proceedings (House of Commons) Bill.
Education (Scotland) Bill.
Coal Mines Inspection Bill.
Absconding Debtors (Ireland) Bill.
Dwelling-houses (Scotland) Bill.
Burial-grounds (Scotland) Bill.
Spirit of Wine Bill.
Consolidated Fund (10,000,000*l.*) Bill.
Bills of Lading (No. 2) Bill.
Railways (Ireland) Bill.
Spirits (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

National Gallery, &c. (Dublin) Bill.
Public Libraries and Museums (Ireland) Bill.
Places of Religious Worship Registration Bill.
Insurance in Lives Abatement of Income-tax Continuance Bill.
Cinque Ports Bill.
Stamp Duties Repeal on Matriculation and Degrees (Oxford) Bill.
Woolmer Forest Bill.
Consolidated Fund (10,000,000*l.*) Bill.
Spirits of Wine Bill.

DEBATES.

SUNDAY TRADING.

The Wednesday sitting of the Commons was occupied by a discussion on Lord Robert Grosvenor's Sunday Trading Bill. On the motion for going into committee, Mr. MASSEY moved to postpone the committee till that day three months. The bill, he said, would have a mischievous effect in aggravating the evil it attempts to put down. Such was the opinion of Sir Richard Mayne. The working-classes are unable to make purchases until Sunday morning; if they were paid on Friday, it would lead to dissipation and idleness. He characterised the bill as a *concocted measure*, since it would not affect the pleasures of the rich, and anomalous, since it was not extended to the whole country.

A long and rather sharp debate ensued; in the course of which, Lord Stanley, Mr. Ker Seymour, Sir George Grey, and Mr. Barrow supported the motion; while Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. Thomas Duncombe, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Maguire, Sir Joshua Walsley, Mr. Bentinck, and Mr. Wilkinson, stoutly opposed it.

On a division, the House decided to go into committee, by 158 to 51. But the opposition was renewed on the first clause; and before the chairman was ordered to report progress, there were no fewer than five divisions in committee. One was taken on the question whether the sale of milk, a perishable article, should be prohibited between the hours of nine A.M. and one P.M.; and it was decided that it should, by 133 to 69. A proposal to substitute "eleven o'clock" for nine o'clock, was negatived by 107 to 100. A third division arose on the clause prohibiting the sale of newspapers after ten A.M. It was proposed by Lord JOHN MANNERS to leave out the word "ten," for the purpose of inserting "nine;" but negatived, by 169 to 53. Mr. DUNCOMBE immediately moved that the words "in the morning" be omitted, and the words "in the afternoon" be inserted; so that no newspaper might be sold after ten at night. This was negatived by 160 to 61. Mr. CRAWFORD then proposed that newspapers might be sold after two in the afternoon; negatived by 140 to 62.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress, and the committee was ordered to sit again on the 4th July.

SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.

In the Commons, on Thursday, at the morning sitting, the House went into committee on the Education (Scotland) Bill. On the question that the preamble be postponed, Lord ELCHO inquired, whether, if the bill passed into law, it was the intention of Government to distribute, as heretofore, the Privy Council grants among Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians?

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON replied, that not only would there be no diminution of those grants, but the most liberal assistance would be given to schools which did not come under the provisions of the bill.

The LORD-ADVOCATE not objecting to the preamble being proceeded with, Mr. HADFIELD moved as an amendment, that the following words be substituted for part of the declaration—"ought not to be conducted at the expense of any part of Her Majesty's subjects who conscientiously object to the principles taught, or to compulsory taxation for the teaching of religion, or to the reading of the Scriptures in any public school." Mr. L. HERWORTH and Mr. PELLATT supported the amendment. It was opposed by Mr. E. Ball, the Lord-Advocate, Mr. A. Hastie, and Mr. Maguire. The latter said, the Roman Catholics of Scotland objected to being taxed for the advantage of other denominations, while they received no benefit from such taxation; but, as the noble lord had admitted their right to receive assistance by means of Privy Council grants, he would not oppose the bill. Mr. Hadfield, in reply, said the Lord-Advocate might now go back to his count-

with the pitiful tale, that, by bribing Roman Catholic Members, he had succeeded in passing his bill, and in taxing Dissenters for the religious education of Presbyterians. (Oh, oh!) Mr. DE VERE, another Roman Catholic member, said, after what had been promised by Lord Palmerston, he should support the bill. Mr. Hadfield's amendment was negatived by 167 against 6.

Two other amendments on the preamble, proposed severally by Mr. C. BRUCE and the Hon. F. SCOTT, were successively negatived by majorities of 105 to 68, and 115 to 64. Mr. HADFIELD then, objecting to the preamble altogether, moved that it be struck out. The committee again divided—122 against 63—majority for the preamble, 51. The preamble was then agreed to.

On clause 1, relating to the constitution of the Board, the LORD-ADVOCATE himself proposed two amendments which, after some discussion, were agreed to. On the question, that the clause as amended stand part of the bill, Mr. BLACKBURN moved that it be omitted, for the purpose of substituting a clause appointing in lieu of the Board an Inspector-General of Education in Scotland. The discussion which ensued was protracted till ten minutes to four, when the Chairman reported progress, and the House suspended its sitting till six o'clock.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BILLS.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved that the Victoria Government Bill be read a second time. Answering the objection that Government ought to have taken the course of enacting *de novo* all the provision which might have been thought necessary by the colonies, he said it would have been inconsistent with the promise conveyed in the bill of 1850 that the colonies should be empowered to settle their own constitutions; and Parliament would have found great difficulty in deciding the details—in settling, for instance, why there should be an elective Upper Chamber in Victoria, and a nominated Chamber in New South Wales; why 50,000*l.* should be given for religious worship in Victoria, and 28,000*l.* for the same purpose in New South Wales. Instead of beginning *de novo*, it had been thought better to take the bills as they had been sent back from Victoria and New South Wales, to strike out those clauses limiting the power of the Crown, to which it was impossible Her Majesty could give her assent, and to render the acts in that form valid and effective from the day on which the Royal assent should be given to them.

Mr. BELL, in moving that the bill be read a second time that day six months, said there was strong reason to believe that it was opposed to the wishes of a large number of the colonists. It had not passed the Legislative Council in its present form. His own objections to it might have been removed by certain alterations in its clauses and in its schedules, but the noble lord the Secretary for the Colonies had refused to make those alterations, and he, therefore, felt constrained to oppose its further progress. A clause in this bill proposed that a sum of 50,000*l.* a year should be devoted to religious purposes in the colony, the effect of which must be to create religious jealousies and heartburnings among the colonists. At the same time, were this a provision originating exclusively with the colonists, and one to which the Imperial Parliament was not asked—as it now was—to be a party, he should not be entitled to object to it, because the colonists ought to enjoy full liberty to legislate for themselves, and especially on a matter so purely local as that of religious endowments. But a memorial, signed by a large number of the colonists, protested against such a proceeding as calculated to stir up strife and ill-feeling among the various religious denominations in Victoria; and, believing that the Imperial Legislature would be incurring a serious responsibility, which it ought to avoid, if by this measure it introduced this element of discord in a rising colony that was now setting out under a new constitution, which it was to be hoped would rest on a lasting basis, he felt it his duty to move that this bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. MIALL, in seconding the amendment, expressed his surprise that the subject of religious endowments should be again brought forward in that House, after all the experience they had had of the heartburnings and strife which it excited in the colonies. No doubt, the acts of those who had been intrusted with the powers of self-government were deserving of every respect; but it should be remembered that the Legislative Council, by which the previous vote of 6,000*l.* per annum had been raised to 50,000*l.*, was a body comprising a large number of nominees of the Crown, and it had acted in this matter in utter disregard, and even in defiance, of the wishes of the colonists. The Legislative Council had professed, in the first instance, to invite an expression of opinion on the subject from the inhabitants, and accordingly a numerous meeting of the people of Melbourne, over which the mayor presided, was held, at which a memorial against this very clause was adopted, and afterwards signed by 13,000 persons. In spite of this remonstrance, however, the Legislative Council persisted in agreeing to this annual endowment of 50,000*l.*, and sought to saddle the colonists with it for all future time. Under these circumstances, that House ought not to give its sanction to such a proceeding. It would not do to say that this part of the measure could not be altered consistently with a recognition of the right of colonial self-government, seeing that the Government had already changed, and even altogether struck out, several other provisions of the bill more immediately affecting constitutional functions than a clause merely relating to religious endowments. On these grounds, although he had no desire to throw the measure out altogether, he must yet second the amendment of his honourable friend as being the only course open to him to meet the circumstances of the case.

Mr. LOWE objected to the bills before the House, as combining an infraction of colonial and of Imperial privileges. The very preamble of the Victoria Bill showed that the Legislature of the colony had over-riden reservations in the Australian Colonies Constitution Bill, restraining the local Legislature from interfering with the Royal authority in certain cases, and with the control of waste lands. The Colonial Legislature, therefore, had done that to which it was not competent. It was admitted that the Queen could not give her assent to the Colonial Bill; and therefore the Colonial Act incorporated in the present bill would be *ab initio* invalid. On the other hand, the Colonial Legislature had proposed a measure quite inconsistent with the views and interests of the majority of the inhabitants—a civil list of 112,000*l.* for a colony of 300,000 inhabitants, the same Legislature having incurred a deficit in the revenue of not less than 1,085,000*l.*; and the most extravagant qualifications for the two branches of the Legislature. The best course for the Colonial Secretary would be to send the bill back to Port Philip for reconsideration; Ministers conceding as much as they thought they ought to concede to the wishes of the colonists.

In the debate which followed, Mr. ADDERLEY supported Mr. Lowe. Mr. DUFFY lent the weight of his influence to Government, though objecting to particular clauses. Mr. BALL deprecated a decision upon technical and legal grounds; and pleaded the overwhelming majority of the Legislature which had passed the bill. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON held himself bound to support the bills, as completing an arrangement entered into in 1853 by Lord Derby's Government for meeting the repeatedly expressed wishes of the colonies. Lord JOHN RUSSELL explained that the colonies will still have power to make future amendments, especially in reference to the appropriation of the 50,000*l.* As Government had consulted the wishes of Canada in regard to the Clergy Reserves, they wished to allow the people of Victoria to alter the provision now made if they thought proper, which would be done by a clause in the bill. The civil list had been fixed by the colony itself; and if the Colonial Bill were invalid, it would be rendered valid by an Act of Parliament.

Mr. BELL, understanding from the Speaker that the House would have the power of dealing with the details of the bill in committee, withdrew his amendment, and the bill was read a second time.

On the order of the day for the second reading of the New South Wales Government Bill, Mr. Lowe moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months; and raised a debate very similar to that upon the previous measure. He made a speech of greater length and detail, going into the history of the local squabbles and disputes between the colony and the Government. He expanded the argument, that as the Legislature of New South Wales was elected by a limited constituency, it did not represent the colonists; and as the colony had been raised upon a convict basis, the transfer of waste lands to a Legislature elected by a restricted constituency would erect upon that convict basis a land monopoly, totally inconsistent with the social state of the colony, the more dangerous from the constantly changing and increasing value of land and stock, and calculated therefore to bring the Government into contempt and the colony into confusion.

Mr. BAXTER seconded the amendment, and, as a merchant connected with Australia, entered his protest against the constituency and against the nominated Upper Chamber. On this point also Mr. MAGUIRE descended at length. Mr. JOHN BALL contended for the necessity of obeying the wishes of the colonists through their authenticated representatives, and stated some facts connected with the distribution of land and population, to show that the representation had not been unwisely arranged by the New South Wales Council.

On a division, Mr. Lowe's amendment was negatived by 142 to 33; and the bill was read a second time.

THE PREMIER AND THE PEELITES.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, Mr. OTWAY put a question to Lord Palmerston respecting the stipulations as to the conditions of peace with Russia made between him and the three seceding members of the Cabinet, referred to by his lordship in the late debate. Judging from the speeches of Mr. Gladstone and Sir J. Graham, he thought that any stipulations made by them "could not have any other object than that of being favourable to the enemy." [Mr. GLADSTONE rose to order, and asked if such language fell within the rules of discussion in the House? The SPEAKER decided that such language "is not within the rules; for it is attributing to honourable members that which is traitorous."] Mr. OTWAY expressed his regret that he could be thought to impute treason to the members alluded to; but, hinting at the possible stipulations—such as that they related to the rebuilding or destruction of Sebastopol—he inquired whether Lord Palmerston was bound by the stipulations of February last; and whether he was prepared to counsel his Sovereign, and our somewhat forgotten Allies, to offer such terms as he considers will prevent the aggression of Russia for the future, and secure a safe and honourable peace?

Lord PALMERSTON said, it would be unbecoming in him to enter fully into the question. In considering whether they should join his Government, his right honourable friends desired to come to a clear understanding; and they asked whether the Government then forming would make one demand a *sine qua non* of peace. Lord Palmerston replied, that "the demand was not one of those which the Government was at that time entitled to make a *sine qua non* of peace." The Allied Governments have repeatedly declared, that the conditions of peace must depend on the events of the war; and that which may have been at one time

a condition which the country was not entitled to exact, might under altered circumstances become so.

Mr. DISRAELI, thinking that the tone of Lord Palmerston's reply implied that the question was improper, rose to state his opinion that it was perfectly legitimate.

Mr. GLADSTONE also exonerated Mr. Otway from any blame. He felt embarrassed by the question. In cases like these, the House of Commons ought either to know nothing or everything—the effect of a half reserve being mischievous to all parties. As far as his "personal and strong inclination and earnest desire" went, he wished Lord Palmerston could have felt himself at liberty to lay all the information in his power before the House; but the public interest must rule all decisions on questions of this character. Speaking for himself only, he said:—

I am not aware that I have at any time, either directly or indirectly, by myself or through others, put a question to my noble friend with reference to the anticipated conditions of treaty with Russia; for this reason—I was not aware that any difference of opinion existed between us as to those conditions, or that any such difficulty would arise. As far as I am concerned, no communication to which I was a party had reference to any particular stipulation, term, or condition of peace with Russia.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, Lord PALMERSTON having moved the postponement of the orders of the day,

Mr. LAYARD moved the following resolution:—

That this House views with deep and increasing concern the state of the nation, and is of opinion that the manner in which merit and efficiency have been sacrificed, in public appointments, to party and family influences, and to a blind adherence to routine, has given rise to great misfortunes, and threatens to bring discredit upon the national character, and to involve the country in grave disasters.

He should make, he said, a straightforward and plain statement. It could not be denied that there was a general feeling abroad that there was something wrong in our administrative system, and that the evil could only be remedied by some kind of pressure from without. He should state the grounds upon which the people of this country had come to this conclusion, and it would be for the Government to show that it was incorrect, and that the different branches of the public service were properly administered. He denied that he meditated an attack upon the aristocracy. All he wanted to see was that every man should have a fair chance to raise himself in the public service; but the feeling out of doors was that this could not be, on account of obstructions arising, to a great extent, if not entirely, from party or family feelings; if this impression was not justifiable, it was proper that the House should remove it. His resolution embraced, he observed, distinct propositions; and first, the state of the nation, in considering which, he observed, that the country was mistrustful of Parliament, and believed that it did not sufficiently represent their feelings and wishes. In discussing the second proposition he began with the army, and, having given explanations respecting certain previous allegations made by him, he adduced several cases (out of hundreds, he said) of delayed promotions, in spite of merit and service, where connexion and influence were wanting, and of rapid advancement where the last-mentioned condition was present, and asked whether they did not justify him in saying that favouritism existed in the army, to the prejudice of deserving men. The remedy was, promotion without purchase, and this could be done without meddling with vested interests. He pointed out other defects in our military system which remained uncorrected, though exposed by parliamentary committees; and then noticed, more briefly, the vices of the naval system. In the next place, he passed under review the diplomatic service, which he described as a very *nidus* of favouritism, the best posts being, he said, almost monopolised by the titled classes, the hardworking subordinates in this most important profession being disheartened by repeated supercessions. The consular service was as ill-treated as the diplomatic; many of the consuls were miserably paid, and some of the vice-consuls were not paid at all. He suggested various improvements in both these services, and then passed to the civil service, in which appointments were dispensed as rewards to political adherents, without reference to capacity or competency. This state of the civil service was attested by official reports, which had given rise to the late order in Council; but that order merely declared that there should be an examination prior to appointment, and with reference to these examinations he read the tests prescribed by the different public offices, some of which he thought not well calculated to bring out the comparative capability of the candidates. Upon this head, likewise, he threw out suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the service, which, at present, he said, was encumbered by inefficient men. Upon the last proposition, he insisted that great disasters might arise from this state of things, and warned the House not to rely upon the recent successes, expressing his own conviction that the war would not be of short duration, but would linger on.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE descended on the civil service, to show that the systematic improvements commenced some time back, and still carried on, are more desirable than organic and political changes undefined. Mr. LEVESON GOWER expressed his disagreement with Mr. Layard's motion. Mr. PEACOCK approved of the principle, because it censured the exclusive Whig system, so bitterly opposed to advancement by merit.

Mr. GLADSTONE occupied a middle place in the debate; as he was unable to agree with the original resolution, or even with the amendment. Subjecting the phrases of the resolution to close criticism, and deprecating rhetorical declarations, he characterised the

resolution as vague, pledging the House to nothing, and offering no useful object to the people. Sir Edward Lytton's amendment, besides recommending Ministers to do what has just been done already, and paying a compliment to the people—not a usual thing in the formal resolutions of Parliament—was expressed in vague and unmeaning language—such as instituting "judicious tests of merit." What are judicious tests of merit? Turning to the civil service, Mr. Gladstone expressed his belief that the system of patronage is the weakness, not the strength, of the Executive. The proposal to adopt the principle of unrestrained competition was not first brought under public notice by the Administrative Reform Association, but by Lord Aberdeen's Government. In like manner, the proposal to revise the official establishments was made at a time when a formal, searching investigation had just been completed. What is wanted in the civil service is a change in the whole basis of the system—perfectly free competition for admissions by the test of examination, and subsequent promotion by merit and efficiency alone. Throw open all the departments—in that he quite agreed with Mr. Layard. He saw with unfeigned satisfaction that the state of feeling on administrative reform was likely to take the direction given to it by Mr. Layard, and he wished him God speed.

Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON moved the following resolution as an amendment—

That this House recommends to the earliest attention of Her Majesty's Ministers the necessity of a careful revision of our various official establishments, with a view to simplify and facilitate the transaction of public business, and, by instituting judicious tests of merit, as well as by removing obstructions to its fair promotion and legitimate rewards, to secure to the service of the State the largest available proportion of the energy and intelligence for which the people of this country are distinguished.

Sir Edward delivered a spirited and carefully-composed speech; in which he charged the Prime Minister with having raised the agitation out of doors, by the injudiciousness of his resistance and the levity of his acquiescence; by the inconsistency of turning out the Duke of Newcastle, and Lord Panmure's declaration that he only intended to carry out the Duke's improvements,—Ministers scattering pleasant jokes and flowery epitaphs upon the defunct predecessors whom they had slain and buried. How deeply had Lord John Russell injured the Duke of Newcastle, or how egregiously had Lord Palmerston and his colleagues duped the expectations of the people! We have more to apprehend from such trifling and frivolity than from all the armaments of Russia. The cry against party is unreasonable and exaggerated: release the Administration from party, that is, from Parliamentary control, and it would become the clockwork machinery of despotism, rendering the Crown more absolute than in the time of the Tudors. The cry threatens the basis of our social system; but it is provoked by combination of families and privileged houses, with which the Whig party have chilled the enthusiasm and energy of those whom the people recognise as their own hardy children, and mortified the pride of a numerous gentry, with birth as ancient as that of the coterie disciplined in Whig drawing-rooms. Even the order in Council on examinations does not warrant confidence in the declarations of Ministers; for it does nothing to widen the range of candidates, and it tells those who are invited to undergo a severe examination, that men unconnected with the public service and unexamined shall be put over their heads; and the very paper containing the advertisement of the examination announced three head appointments in the Directorship of Stores, Contracts, and Clothing, by the rule of favouritism. Although he had spoken under the influence of party, Sir Edward said that he had framed his amendment in order that the House might take a vote, independently of party, on the simple question of administrative reform.

Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS closed the debate for the night in a speech of no great length, disclaiming "a blind adherence to routine," though not to system, without which no service or law could go on; and he recapitulated those inquiries into the public departments which have been carried on since 1848, and have been followed or accompanied by searching and progressive reforms, that have rendered the departments much more efficient, and that will still be carried on. He intimated, that if Mr. Layard's resolution were carried, Ministers, regarding it as a vote of want of confidence, would retire; but that, construing Sir Edward Lytton's amendment by the simple meaning of its words, he should have no difficulty in accepting it.

Lord GODERICH moved that the debate be adjourned till Monday; which was carried by 240 to 29.

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Friday night, the Earl of DERBY, on the order of the day being read for the recommitment of the Religious Worship Bill, moved that it be referred to a select committee, on the ground that the measure had been hurried through the Lower House, and that sufficient time had not been allowed to consider so important an alteration in the law. He was not desirous to impose restrictions on religious instruction, but he objected to sweep away at one blow all difference between the clergy and laity, and abrogate the functions of the parochial clergy.

A discussion of considerable length ensued, after which their lordships divided, when the numbers were, for Lord Derby's motion, 47; against it, 30; majority, 17. The bill was accordingly referred to the select committee.

On Monday, the select committee on the Religious Worship Bill was appointed, on the motion of Lord HARROWBY, the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, who was nominated one of the members, refusing to serve.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate on Monday was resumed by Lord GODERICH, who said that, notwithstanding the

credit taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, only two measures of reform had been adopted by the present Government—namely, the consolidation of the War Departments, and the order in Council of the 2nd May. With regard to the first, it appeared that there was no intention on their part to deal with that important subject—promotions in the army; and as to the second, he thought it had been proved by Sir S. Northcote that it would be nugatory. He denied that Mr. Layard intended by his motion a direct vote of want of confidence in the Government, and after citing the opinions of official persons as to the effect of patronage in the civil service, he justified the course of action denominated "the Goderich pledge," thinking, he said, that in the war with patronage the members of that House should perform their part. The allusion in Mr. Layard's motion to the manner in which family connexions were allowed to influence appointments, and to the evils of such influence, he thought justified by circumstances. He admitted that a Minister would encounter great risks in endeavouring to defeat or nullify this influence; he might even be removed from his office; but no sacrifice could be more noble than one incurred in the endeavour to reform and render efficient the public service.

Mr. F. PEEL said, his principal object was to reply to that portion of Mr. Layard's speech in which he criticised the existing system of administration in the army, which he alleged, most erroneously, to be one of favouritism, of family connexions, and of influence of every sort except the right, to the absolute negation of merit. He had not dealt in general charges, but had cited particular cases, which afforded him (Mr. Peel) an opportunity of endeavouring to remove what would otherwise leave a most erroneous and delusive impression upon the public mind. After illustrating what he characterised as the heedlessness with which Mr. Layard made these charges, he entered into minute professional details respecting the particular cases cited by Mr. Layard as examples of favouritism, observing that, if these were the worst instances he could produce of the evils of the existing system, he could assure him that any system would give rise to individual cases infinitely worse. He then passed to another class of cases,—those of officers alleged to be pining in neglect,—regarding which he gave similar details, and next proceeding to the charges brought by Mr. Layard in respect to staff appointments, and to the manner in which rewards were conferred, contending that they were bestowed with reference to distinguished services. The remedy proposed by Mr. Layard for the vices and evils of the existing system was the abolition of promotion by purchase; but Mr. Peel pointed out what appeared to him to be great difficulties in the way of the adoption of this scheme. With respect to the motion, he thought it came too late, and that it exaggerated the state of feeling in the country. That there had been calamities no one could deny; but, at all events, they had now passed away, and our army in the Crimea was more numerous and better appointed than had ever been placed under the command of an English general.

Mr. DRUMMOND assailed, in his peculiar manner, the views of Mr. Layard, reminding him, satirically, that a volunteer statesman, though very like a statesman, was not one. This movement, he believed, was not directed against a Government, but was really intended against a class. It was a delusive cry; the only meaning of those out of doors who raised it was that the Government of the country should be taken out of the hands of the class who had conducted it for years past, and transferred to shipbrokers, stockbrokers, railway directors, and Heaven knew whom.

Mr. JOHN MCGREGOR passed under review some of our public departments, making free comments upon their heads, and specifying the qualities they ought, in his opinion, to possess.

Colonel LINDSAY gave explanations respecting the cases of Lord Eustace Cecil and Captain Blackett, referred to by Mr. Layard. He complained of the injustice done to the Brigade of Guards.

Mr. J. PHILLIMORE was disposed to go a great way with Mr. Layard in respect to the army; but as to the civil service he protested against the doctrine of Mr. Gladstone and Sir S. Northcote. He thought the scheme laid down in the blue-book absurd, and betraying an ignorance of human nature. He should vote against the original motion, because it was neither definite nor intelligible.

Mr. DISRAELI explained the views of Lord Derby's Government with respect to Administrative Reform (a phrase which he had first used), and stated that they had arrived at the conclusion that the changes denoted by that phrase were imperatively required, and that our financial system required revision. They had resolved, he said, to bring before the House the whole question of Administrative Reform, with the view of making the public service more consistent with the requirements of the age, and he specified the steps which that Government had intended to take for the development of their plans. In consonance with the opinions he had at that time entertained, he held that very great changes were necessary in the civil service of the country; that the entering into that service ought not to be by favouritism, but that there should be a substantial and real test of fitness; that the rewards of our public servants should be on a higher scale, the result of which would be, not increased expense, but economy; and, lastly, that the civil service ought to be made, and must be made, completely a profession, and that the great offices should be reserved for public servants trained and educated in that service. The first step, he thought, should be the appointment of a Royal Commission of practical men to inquire into the best manner in which the public departments

could be conducted. He could not agree with Mr. Layard's motion. He attributed the disasters to which it referred to the Cabinet, the members of which were not bound together by that public sympathy and private regard which were essential to the success of every Cabinet, and he thought it would be most unwise to use that motion as a conductor to carry away public indignation from the Government on account of failures for which they were and ought to be responsible. The amendment of Sir B. Lytton, in his opinion, accurately embodied what the House ought to feel; but, at the same time, it had a right to expect from the Government some assurance and security that, if it was adopted, they would act upon the recommendation it contained, taking it as a recommendation of the House of Commons on a subject of the highest importance. The declaration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the motion of Mr. Layard was regarded as a vote of want of confidence in the Ministers, who would, if it were carried, resign, he made the text of some sarcastic comments upon the Government.

Lord PALMERSTON began by replying to a personal accusation made against him by Mr. Layard at the meeting at Drury-lane Theatre, that he jested with the sufferings of the people and vilified them. He told Mr. Layard to his face that there was not one word of truth in those assertions, and he wondered that a blush of shame did not come over his face at making charges which his conscience ought to have told him were diametrically the reverse of truth. The speech of Mr. Layard upon this motion, he observed, had treated of the army, the diplomacy, and the civil service. The reply of Mr. F. Peel had, he thought, completely disposed of the objections on the first point. Upon the second, he made a few remarks in reply to Mr. Layard, whose own example, he thought, went some way to refute his arguments. With respect to the civil service, he gave due credit to the good intentions of Lord Derby's Government, but those intentions had been in a great degree carried into effect by the present Administration. Although he believed the system of examination would produce a supply of men of ability and attainments, he warned the House against indulging undue expectations from that system, the civil service holding out fewer attractions to first-rate men than other professions and pursuits. He appealed to certain late appointments in various departments as showing a desire on the part of the Government to reward efficiency and merit—that they were alive to the duties they had to perform. As to the original motion, he thought he might dispense with any argument to convince the House that it should not assent to it. The amendment the Government were ready to accept, and to accept it with sincerity. It would be their duty to look into all the public departments, and to adopt, which they would do, with pride and pleasure, any practical improvements. He accepted the amendment as a pledge that there should be, not only a revision, but a continued revision of the different offices of the civil service.

Mr. LINDSAY moved the further adjournment of the debate, and, after some remarks by Admiral BARKLEY and Mr. OTWAY, the House divided, when the motion was negatived by 336 to 83.

After a short reply from Mr. LAYARD, the House divided upon his motion, which was negatived by 359 to 46.

The amendment of Sir B. LYTTON was then put as an original resolution, when, on the motion of Mr. LINDSAY, the debate was adjourned until Thursday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, on Thursday, moved that the Bill for the Limitation of the Working Hours of Needlewomen be referred to a Select Committee; prefacing his motion with an explanation of the object and grounds of the Bill. The Duke of AROLYL and others saw great difficulties in the way of enforcing such a law as that now proposed. The noble earl need not, therefore, be surprised if the difficulties which he felt in former years should press severely upon the minds of others; and the noble earl would admit that it was in itself an evil to have laws upon the statute book which could not be enforced. After some discussion, the motion was agreed to.

The Cambridge University Bill was read a third time and passed.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent by Commission, on Friday, viz.: Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill, Sewers (House Drainage) Bill, Registration of Births, &c. (Scotland) Bill, Ecclesiastical Property (Ireland) Bill, Brighton Incorporation Bill, and Validity of Proceedings (House of Commons) Bill.

On Friday, on the motion that the House at its rising adjourn to Monday, a conversation arose between Mr. Bright and Lord John Russell as to the freedom of the Press in Gibraltar, which ended by Lord John Russell refusing to allow unlicensed printing in that fortress. Suppose a newspaper was to publish the strength of the garrison, the weak points of defence in the fortress, the amount of ammunition which it contained, the guns which were fit for service and those which were disabled, and the sites of the powder magazines, it would not only be in the power, but it would be the duty of the governor to stop that newspaper. (Hear, hear.) Mr. BRIGHT said his question referred to the particular ordinance. He wished to ask the noble lord to cancel the ordinance of Sir Robert Gardiner, and to give to the inhabitants of Gibraltar that freedom of the press which had been promised by the Duke of Newcastle. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he could not promise to do so. (Hear, hear.)

Sir C. WOOD, on Monday, laid on the table a despatch, explaining the circumstances under which a body of Russian troops had fired upon a boat's crew sent from Her Majesty's ship *Coassack*, under a flag of

trust, and engaged in landing some prisoners at Hango Sound. The right honourable baronet recapitulated the circumstances attending the occurrence, and moved that the despatch should be printed. The statement of the First Lord was listened to amidst much emotion by the House, and the motion agreed to unanimously.

The following is a list of the minority of 46 ayes, that voted in favour of Mr. Layard's motion on administrative reform on Monday night:—

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alexander, John | Langton, H. Gore | Reed, Joseph |
| Bell, James | Ladett, William | Roebuck, J. A. |
| Bowyer, George | Lee, William | Scholefield, W. |
| Brockman, E. D. | Linday, W. S. | Scobell, Captain |
| Brown, H. | Low, Robert | Scully, Vincent |
| Cobden, Richard | Magnie, John | Smith, John B. |
| Dillwyn, Lewis | Mangles, Ross | Thompson, George |
| Dundas, George | Miall, Edward | Tite, William |
| Dunlop, Alexander | Michell, William | Vance, John |
| Fitzgerald, W. R. | Mowatt, F. | Warner, E. |
| Fox, William | Murrough, John | Williams, Wm. |
| Goderich, Lord | Oliveira, Benjamin | Wise, Ayshford |
| Grave, Edward | Otway, Arthur | |
| Hogan, Edward | Parker, Robert | TELLERS. |
| Hadfield, George | Pechell, Sir G. | Layard, Austen |
| Keating, Henry | Pellatt, Apsley | Clifford, Colonel |
| King, Locke | Price, W. Philip | |

REPORT OF THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

Mr. Roebuck, on Monday, brought up the Report of the Select Committee on the State of the Army before Sebastopol, which was read by Sir Dennis Le Marchant. After stating various obvious reasons why the inquiry could not be complete, the committee divide it into two heads:—

1. The condition of our army before Sebastopol.
2. The conduct of the departments, both at home and abroad, whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of that army.

Under the first head, the committee says:—

"An army encamped in a hostile country, at a distance of 3,000 miles from England, and engaged during a severe winter in besieging a fortress which, from want of numbers, it could not invest, was necessarily placed in a situation where unremitting fatigue and hardship had to be endured. Your committee are, however, of opinion that this amount of unavoidable suffering has been aggravated by causes hereafter enumerated, and which are mainly to be attributed to dilatory and insufficient arrangements for the supply of this army with necessities indispensable to its healthy and effective condition. In arriving at this opinion, they have made allowance for the unexpected severity of the storm on the 14th November, and they have not been unmindful of the difficulties which a long period of peace must inevitably produce at the commencement of a campaign.

The first point treated of under the second head is, "the conduct of the Government at home." It is here stated that the Home Government were responsible for the expedition to the Crimea, that the Cabinet appeared confident that Sebastopol would be taken by a *coup de main*, and that the first information as to the Russian forces and resources was very meagre. Attention is called to the proposed changes in the War Department, to the appointment of the Duke of Newcastle to the discharge of its very ill-defined duties. It is noticed, and "with regret," that the Cabinet did not meet in August and September, and that the final arrangements of the War Department, being delayed for many months, any evils resulting from that delay, "are properly laid to the charge of the Cabinet." On the measures for reinforcing the army, it is said:—

Your committee must express their regret that the formation of a large reserve at home, and also in the proximity of the seat of war, was not considered at a much earlier period, and that the Government, well knowing the limited numbers of the British army, the nature of the climate in the East, as well as the power we were about to encounter, did not at the commencement of the war take means to augment the ranks of the army beyond the ordinary recruiting, and also that earlier steps were not taken to render the militia available both for the purpose of obtaining supplies of men, and also, in case of necessity, for the relief of regiments of the line stationed in garrisons in the Mediterranean—measures which they found themselves compelled to adopt a later period.

Under the heading "the Secretary of State for War," the committee point out the want of organisation in the war department last year. "The Duke of Newcastle's interference was sought for in matters of detail, wherein his time should not have been occupied, and he was left unacquainted with transactions of which he should have received official communication." "The evidence, moreover, shows that the Duke was long left in ignorance, or was misinformed, respecting the progress of affairs in the East. He was not, until a late period, made acquainted with the state of the hospitals at Scutari, and the horrible mode in which the sick and wounded were conveyed from Balaklava to the Bosphorus. Lord Aberdeen has significantly observed, that the Government were left in ignorance longer than they ought to have been of the real state of matters in the East." A commission of inquiry into the hospitals at Scutari and the Crimea was issued, but it did not report till April. Though the clothing of the troops was not within the province of the Secretary for War, the Duke interfered to accelerate the arrangements for the supply of the troops, with which all the military departments were occupied. "The system of clothing the army was then, and still is, in a state of transition; whenever the existing contracts cease, the clothing will be supplied by the Ordnance or by a clothing department."

The duties of the "Secretary at War" are then described. "Mr. Sidney Herbert, as Secretary at War, had no power to originate anything; but from praiseworthy motives, and with a view to relieve the Duke of Newcastle, he undertook to do a good deal which was not the business of his office. While expenditure was encouraged, some financial regula-

tions were still enforced, suited to a time of peace, but inapplicable to a period of war, and operating unjustly on the soldiers who had been wounded or afflicted with sickness in the Crimea." The committee point out the inconvenient situation of the general hospital at Chatham, suggest the provision of hospitals for officers of the army as well as navy, and express a hope "that the evils which have arisen from allowing soldiers' wives to accompany an army in the field will prevent a repetition of this error."

"The Ordnance Department" then comes under consideration. It is shown that the Lieutenant-General did not possess adequate powers, and that great evils resulted from the absence of the Master-General (Lord Raglan) to whom a successor should have been appointed by Lord Aberdeen. "From the evidence it will be seen that a conflict of authority arose between the members of this board. At a time when urgent business required their attention, they were engaged in disputes, in preparing statements, and in making appeals to the Secretary of State for War."

"The Ordnance-office" strikingly exemplifies the disordered state into which a department may fall when there is no able hand to guide it. "After perusing the evidence, it will excite no surprise to find that the arrangements attempted by this office in reference to warm clothing, huts, and Minié rifles, were imperfect and dilatory. Your committee must express their dissatisfaction with the administration of the contract system under this department, and they consider that no change will be effective which does not lead to a revision and amendment of this branch of the office." From the evidence on the disordered state of this department, the corps of artillery attached to the army is specially exempted.

Under the heading "The Transport Department at Home," conducted by the Board of Admiralty, the general arrangements are described. "The mode in which ships were taken up is stated by Captain Milne, and, considering the urgent pressure of the public service, this business appears to have been ably conducted." The manner of sending stores to the East is described and censured. "Much suffering was the consequence of this faulty mode of proceeding, the sick at Scutari being in need of stores, which, in consequence of bad arrangements, were carried to Balaklava. The unnecessary sufferings of the soldiers directly referable to this neglect form one of the most painful portions of the evidence; but on what department the blame should rest—whether on the office of the Commander-in-Chief, or of the Secretary at War, or of the Secretary of State for War—your committee are unable to decide."

"The transport service in the Black Sea" is next adverted to, and attention is called to the fact, that responsibility in that quarter was a matter of dispute. Consequently, the arrangements were very defective. The want of system, and chaos, at Balaklava is also adverted to. The next subject of remark is "the transport service in the Bosphorus, under the orders of Rear-Admiral Boxer. Some of the disadvantages of that officer are pointed out, such as the want of a receiving-ship, and the absence in the Crimea of Commander Borlase, who, having been for three years in the Turkish service, had been specially chosen to assist him. "Your committee are of opinion that there was some unnecessary detention of transports at Constantinople, and that the arrangements for coaling were very deficient; but, as they have not been able to examine Admiral Boxer, they cannot pronounce an opinion as to his share of the responsibility. His letters in the appendix show that he exerted himself strenuously to discharge duties for which, it is admitted, his means were inadequate, and, if he failed under these difficulties, his subsequent endeavours in the harbour of Balaklava appeared to have been successful."

"The Commissariat department at home" subordinate to the Treasury, and practically under the management of Sir C. Trevelyan, is dismissed in a few sentences. It is now under the control of the Secretary for War. Sir Charles stated that the forms of the Commissariat had been improved and simplified some years since, and that although persons might misunderstand any regulations, yet he did not believe these forms were to be blamed. He would willingly submit them to any practised accountant for his opinion.

The duties of "the commissariat department in the East" are stated to be "to furnish the army when in the field, with provisions for the men, forage for the animals, and land transport." It was expected to make good the deficiencies of many distinct departments. "The military system in this country affords the Commissariat no opportunity of becoming acquainted with the army, or of ministering to its wants; so that in a campaign the officers of this department find themselves called upon to furnish supplies in regard to which they may have had no experience; while the officers and men, being often ignorant of the proper duties of the Commissariat, consider this department responsible for everything they may require."

From the first the system of the "land transport" was found to be imperfect. "No adequate measures were adopted for its improvement, so that the army, when encamped before Sebastopol, depended for all its supplies upon a service defective in its organisation and in its superintendence. The army landed in the Crimea without the animals necessary for the conveyance of the baggage, or for the removal of the sick and wounded; much inconvenience and suffering resulted from this deficiency; but if, as stated to your committee, every available vessel was employed for other purposes, the Commissariat cannot be held responsible. The animals were inadequately protected from the inclemency of the weather."

"The Road" next comes under review. It is shown

that on the arrival of the army, they found two principal roads from Balaklava to Sebastopol—one the fine Government road, called the Woronzoff-road; the other further to the left, a useful farm-road. The army held the Woronzoff-road up to the time of the battle of Balaklava, in October. Immediately after that action it became necessary to draw in the outposts, which lost to the army the use of that road; the other road, however, remained, and was available for all purposes until the rains commenced. The difficulties in maintaining the roads are then adverted to. The men could not be withdrawn from the trenches. From the 14th November (the date of the hurricane), the land-transport was gradually reduced in strength, until it almost ceased to exist. Cavalry horses were used up, and the broken road and the want of land-transport increased the confusion of the harbour. The committee think this state of things partly the result of a "want of due foresight and decision."

In respect to "depôts" it is stated, "that in October Commissary-General Filder was engaged in the formation of a depôt near the camp, in order that he might be secure against the contingencies of weather; but after the action of Balaklava the commissariat chest was ordered on board ship, and the transports were sent out of the harbour. At this time the abandonment of Balaklava was contemplated. After this followed the battle of Inkermann, when the transport service was occupied in bringing up ammunition, and a few days later came 'the hurricane and catastrophe.' From this time forward all the available animals were employed for the daily requirements of the army, and the establishment of depôts was relinquished. At Constantinople, Deputy-Commissary-General Smith established extensive magazines. He states that the supplies under his charge were sufficient, and the arrangements for the custody and delivery of stores unobjectionable."

Under the heading "commissariat supplies—food for the men," we learn that "the Commissariat department obtained an abundant supply of salt meat, biscuit, and rum from England." The men were supplied with fresh meat frequently, though not regularly, and evidence differs as to its extent. The deficiency is ascribed mainly to the failure of the sea-transport. "Vegetables, which, according to the intentions of the Government, should have been issued gratuitously, were very scantily supplied; indeed, several witnesses assert that none were ever seen in the camp." The coffee-berry explanations are described as not being satisfactory. "The more immediate comfort of the troops appears to have been overlooked, while ingenious arguments on the volatile aroma of the berry, and on the Turkish mode of packing coffee, were passing backwards and forwards between Commissary-General Filder and the Treasury."

"Forage" is next adverted to. "When the army first encamped before Sebastopol stacks of forage were found in the neighbourhood; these were soon consumed, and henceforward there appears to have been much difficulty in obtaining fodder for the horses. To what extent the Commissariat is responsible for the deficiency in all these supplies, is a question to which it is not easy to give a definite answer." Sir C. Trevelyan lays the blame upon Admiral Boxer, and doubts his "administrative qualification." Admiral Boxer, it appears, in December remonstrated against the irregular system pursued by the Commissariat in the Crimea, and requested the interference of the Commander of the Forces. "Your committee have not been able to examine Commissary-General Filder or Rear-Admiral Boxer, and they cannot therefore decide upon whom this blame should rest. Both these officers were apparently convinced that the transport system in the Black Sea had been ill-conducted. Whether, however, the vessels had been injudiciously detained as store depôts by the Commissariat, or improperly employed in other services by the Admiral at Constantinople, are questions which your committee cannot satisfactorily answer." Testimony is borne to the zeal of some subordinate officers of the Commissariat in procuring supplies.

"The Medical Department at home" is next passed in review, and the difficulties of Dr. Smith and the Director-General pointed out. That gentleman made suggestions through the Ordnance to the Admiralty, which were not attended to. "An excess of caution in the first instance, led probably to some evils which a lavish outlay could not afterwards repair."

"The Medical Department in the East" is passed over with but few remarks and reference to the report of the Commissioners.

Then follows a number of paragraphs on the hospital at Scutari, describing their wretched condition, the conflicting authority of Dr. Menzies and Dr. Cumming, and of the Purveyor. Blame is attached to the former for not repeating correctly the circumstances of the hospital, and the accuracy of Dr. Hall's report called in question. The committee openly express a suspicion that some dishonesty has been practised in respect to the stores at Scutari, and an investigation by the Executive is recommended. Special commendation is bestowed upon the efforts of private charity, especially the *Times* Fund, in stepping in "to redress the evils of official mismanagement;" and reference is made to the meritorious labours of Miss Nightingale, the Hon. and Rev. G. Osborne, and Mr. Augustus Stafford. "In order to show the dreadful discomfort of the men, and the neglect on the part of the authorities, it may be sufficient to state that in the Barrack Hospital at Scutari, during the month of November, while there were about 2,000 patients in that hospital, the whole number of shirts washed was only six. At a later period it is fair to add that this glaring evil was mitigated." "Major Sillery, either unprovided with special instructions for such an emergency, or unacquainted with his powers and authority as military commandant, appears to have been completely para-

lysed in his attempts to govern the hospitals under his orders. He was unprovided with staff."

The report thus concludes:—

Your committee have now adverted to the chief points contained in the replies to above 21,000 questions, and in noticing these various subjects they have divided them under distinct heads, in order fairly to apportion the responsibility.

Your committee report that the suffering of the army resulted mainly from the circumstances under which the expedition to the Crimea was undertaken and executed. The Administration which ordered that expedition had no adequate information as to the amount of the forces in the Crimea. (Hear, hear.) They were not acquainted with the strength of the fortresses to be attacked, or with the resources of the country to be invaded. They hoped and expected the expedition to be immediately successful, and, as they did not foresee the probability of a protracted struggle, they made no provision for a winter campaign. (Hear, hear.)

The patience and fortitude of this army demand the admiration and gratitude of the nation on whose behalf they have fought, bled, and suffered. Their heroic valour, and equally heroic patience, under sufferings and privations, have given them claims upon their country which will doubtless be gratefully acknowledged. (Cheers.)

Your committee will now close their report with a hope that every British army may in future display the valour which this noble army has displayed, and that none may hereafter be exposed to such sufferings as are recorded in these passages. (Loud cheers.)

The report, which occupied an hour and twenty-five minutes in reading, was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of this association was held on Wednesday night, in Drury-lane Theatre. The admission was by tickets only, and shortly after the doors were opened the house was crowded in every part. On the stage were the Earls of Milltown and Lindsay, and the following members of Parliament: Messrs. F. H. F. Berkeley, Bell, Oliveira, Michell, Miall, F. French, Pellatt, R. Swift, Bowyer, Maguire, Jackson, Follett, Currie, Layard, Lindsay, Tite, Otway, C. H. Russell, Alecock, G. Dandras; Sir C. Napier, Sir C. Shakerley, Capt. Eastwick, Messrs. Gassiot, Loaf, Nicholay, Travers, Ingram, Thackeray, Edwin James, and many others.

Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY, as chairman, in opening the proceedings, announced that no resolutions, and therefore no amendments, could be moved; and that no other persons could speak except those whose names were set down. The whole proceedings, in fact, were to consist of addresses, to hear which the public had been invited. In answer to those who said the committee were slow in going to work, he stated, that they had at present prepared a pamphlet entitled "The Devising Heads and Executive Hands of the English Government;" which, on the evidence of men living and mixing among the abominations complained of, from Lord John Russell and Lord Lansdowne down to some of the working-men in the public departments, would show what this association was now demanding, and which could not be read by thoughtful men without leading to the determination that this reform ought to be carried into effect. The association, it would be seen, know what is wanted; and in this pamphlet would be found a cut and dried plan which would remedy the evils complained of. Mr. Morley insisted that the root of the evil lay with the people themselves; and he called upon them to determine that the present state of things should no longer continue. A member of one of the noble families had said, "If this movement goes on, what will become of us younger sons?" but he would say, if this system goes on, what would not become of the younger sons? He disclaimed all design of attacking the aristocracy: if they will render themselves efficient, they may take the lion's share of the public service. The object of the association is to lay open to the public gaze every department of the State; and if a hundred men in the House of Commons would take a stand, independent of party, the work would be done. (Cheers.)

The Chairman, at the close of his opening address, read letters from Mr. Heywood, M.P., the Rev. S. G. Osborne, Sir W. Clay, M.P., and Mr. Charles Dickens. Mr. Heywood drew attention approvingly to an advertisement in which Lord Panmure offers the appointments to the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers, in the senior or practical class, in the Academy at Woolwich, to open competition among natural-born subjects of Her Majesty, who, on or before the 25th may send in certain certificates then mentioned, of age, education, &c. The Rev. Mr. Osborne felt that the right man would not be in the right place if he was to take part in the proceedings. It was pure constituency, in his opinion, which must remedy our evils. Sir W. Clay sent ten guineas, and Mr. Dickens who is to speak at the next meeting, the following letter:—

Tavistock House, Monday, June 11, 1855.

Dear Sir,—I regret that I cannot attend the meeting at Drury-lane Theatre on Wednesday night, having a duty to discharge elsewhere, to which I have been pledged for months. I have enrolled myself a member of the Administrative Reform Association, because I believe it to be impossible for England long to hold her place in the world, or long to be at rest within herself, unless the present system of mismanaging the public affairs and mispending the public money, be altogether changed; because I daily see stronger and stronger reason to entertain the conviction that it never will be really amended in any essential respects, until a general determination that it must be, is so extended throughout the country, that it shall make itself plainly heard, even within the very thick party walls of the House of Commons; because the steady union of great numbers of earnest men is essential to this result; and because I hope the association will effect such union by honestly instructing the people as to their real wrongs, and their peaceful means of righting them for the common good. You know that literature is my profession—

It is at once my business and my pleasure, and I shall never pass beyond it. The association can render me no service but as one of the community, and I join it in no other character, and with no other purpose.—Dear Sir, faithfully yours,
S. Morley, Esq.

CHARLES DICKENS.

Mr. LAYARD, M.P., then presented himself to the meeting, and was received with loud and repeated bursts of cheering. He said, there was a very general and deep-seated conviction abroad that the country was most grievously misgoverned. That conviction was not limited to a few, nor had it been hastily arrived at; but, on the contrary, it was very deep-seated, and the movement which was the consequence of it, like most movements which had taken place in the country, was essentially a movement organised and carried on by those who, above all others, represented the intelligence, wealth, and enterprise of England. (Cheers.) If he were called upon to divide England into two parties as connected with this movement, he should say that on one side were all the men of common sense, of respectability and wealth, who by their perseverance and industry hoped to raise a name for themselves and to do good to the public service; while on the other there was a small party who claimed to themselves the monopoly of Government, and who lived, grew fat, and vegetated upon those corruptions and evils which the association were determined, if possible, to remove. (Cheers.) However dangerous agitation might be in general, there was a time when agitation was necessary in order to correct a greater evil than agitation itself could produce, and that time had now arrived. (Hear.) The association felt that while in this great country, during a long period of comparatively entire peace, all that concerned the private relations and enterprises of the country had made a progress unexampled in its history; that, while national monuments such as had never been equalled in the greatest empires of the world had arisen around us, and while everything was moving and doing, the Government of the country alone stood still. (Loud cheers.) They had, therefore, thought it better to come forward now and give an impetus and movement to this feeling, rather than to remain any longer listless and regardless of it. He could not but think that the present war, putting aside all political objects, would lead to many beneficial results, one of which was undoubtedly the establishment of the Administrative Reform Association. If the war had not taken place we should have slumbered too long. (Hear, hear.) But putting aside all political considerations as to the justice and necessity of the war, he thought all persons would be agreed that, as we were engaged in war, that war ought to be carried on in a manner consistent with the honour and dignity of the country. (Cheers.) Of this misgovernment the labours of the Sebastopol Committee afforded ample evidence, the three blue books which they had issued recording the ignorance, indifference, and obstinacy of a Government such as he would defy the whole history of the world to produce.

They cast the greatest shame upon the people and upon the system, though fortunately there was one redeeming point, inasmuch as they showed instances of heroic suffering, of patient endurance, and of virtue that had never been equalled. (Cheers.) Who could read without emotion the evidence of such witnesses as Messrs. Stafford, Osborne, and Macdonald? Their testimony proved the utter ignorance and incompetence of the Government officials, and showed that the most intense sufferings had been borne by the troops with patient endurance and with but one gleam of hope. And whence did that ray of hope come? It came from the midnight lamp of that heroic woman—(great cheering)—who, as had been well described, was nightly to be seen passing alone along miles of agony and suffering. (Cheers.) Whence, also, had come the small comforts which had been supplied to relieve the condition of the troops? They came from funds supplied by private benevolence and administered by a great organ of public opinion. (Cheers.) A woman self-devoted, and a man who had never seen war or gone into sickness, and who was selected only for his intelligence, these were the people who scattered hope and comfort, which all the great appliances of the country, which had cost millions of taxation, were totally unable to effect. (Cheers.) What lesson were they taught by this? Why, that almost every improvement which had taken place had come from private suggestion, and that almost every substantial alleviation of suffering had originated in public charity.

Mr. Layard then spoke of the inattention of the late Cabinet to their duties during the recess of Parliament, to their incompetency, obstinacy, and neglect, and asked if in the face of all this he need ask if an Administrative Reform Association was necessary? He then alluded to his own motion in the House of Commons, and to the course which he had taken and meant to take with respect to it, and then spoke of the objects of the Association.

He took it that the first object of the society was to gain information; that was a most important object; it comprised a multiplicity of subjects, but could not be said to be indefinite. Hitherto all connected with the Government of this country had been guarded by a veil of mystery, which it was the object of that society to break through. The Corn-law League was established for a specific object, to enable it to obtain which a quarter of a million was collected. But, to his mind, the abolition of the Corn-laws was infinitely secondary to the objects of that association—(cheers)—for, if they put the right men in the Government, the abolition of the Corn-laws and of every other noxious law would follow as a matter of course, and therefore he said to all who wished well to the cause—enable the society, by pecuniary support, to obtain information. (Cheers.) They then came to something more tangible, in the shape of the reform of the three great branches of the public service—the army and navy, the diplomatic, and the civil services.

The honourable gentleman then said, as regarded the army, he could show Lord Palmerston, if he were sincere in his desire to abolish the system of purchase, how he might cut off half of it without any ex-

pense to any individual or the country. With respect to diplomacy, if there was any branch of the public service which required a fundamental reform, it was this. He warned the meeting against secret diplomacy. It must to a certain extent be so, but it need not be mystified to the extent it was at present. If inquiry was more important on any one subject than another, it was with reference to the civil service.

One of the first objects of the society ought to be to assist in getting effective men placed in every branch of the civil service. At present he believed that the number of civil servants employed was too large, and many of them were underpaid. They ought to be paid liberally, and he believed that it was a great mistake to press too much for a reduction of salaries, because generally the enormous salaries of the great men were left untouched, while the small salaries of the really hard-working and deserving men were cut down. (Hear, hear.) At present, there were about 60,000 persons connected with the civil service, and the appointments of these men were influenced more or less by political motives. A sort of current of electricity ran between Mr. Hayter and the representatives of various constituencies. The Secretary to the Treasury had only to touch the electric wire, and it ran through the whole of the country. That, however, was a system which must be put a stop to; and in considering what means ought to be adopted to put a stop to it, he came to what he considered to be one of the chief objects of the meeting. He had been told that he had made a great mistake in the terms of the motion which he was about to bring before the House of Commons, and that instead of having said, "The Home views with deep concern the state of the nation," he ought to have said, "The nation views with deep concern the state of the House." (Laughter and cheers.) Upon the whole, he believed that such a motion would have better expressed the feeling of the country, for the people of the country were beginning to lose faith in the House of Commons. They saw in it a mere struggle of parties, and no real earnestness. (Cheers.)

What he (Mr. Layard) wished to see was a new party in the House of Commons, not representing a class, but representing the feelings and opinion of the people of the country, and relying for support not upon family connexions, but upon the people. (Cheers.) They were asked what were the objects of the association; let them reply in the words of the immortal Shakespeare, who expressed the sentiments not only of the Englishmen of his day, but of Englishmen in all times—

Who will go about to cozen fortune,
And be honourable without the stamp of merit?
Let none presume to wear an undesired dignity.
O that estates, degrees, and offices were not derived corruptly;
And that clear honour were purchased by
The merit of the wearer. How many then
Should cover that stand bare; how many
Be commanded that command.

The honourable gentleman resumed his seat amid repeated rounds of applause.

Mr. LINDSAY, M.P., who spoke next, instanced the delay which had lately taken place in sending out 3,000 horses to the division which Sir De L. Evans commanded in the Crimea, as a proof that mismanagement still existed. The Admiralty had told the gallant general that it was impossible to send them out from the scarcity of shipping, whereas at that very time a friend of Mr. Lindsay's had offered Lord Panmure a magnificent fleet at extremely low rates. He would fit these ships for the horses; feed them, load them, and take them from the fields here to the fields of action in the Crimea, and land them, while our Government were thinking, or rather, dreaming about it. The Government would not allow City men to do the work for them, they would do it themselves, and it was now three months since these horses had been bought, and he understood the larger part of them had not yet been sent out. Mr. Lindsay instanced another case where two ships had been sold to the French Government from the absurd requirement of our own Government that they should be brought all the way from the Clyde to Liverpool to be first inspected, when at an extremely trifling expense they could have sent their surveyor to the ships. That ship-owner said to Mr. Lindsay that this fact had caused him to become a thorough administrative reformer, and that he would send 100*l.* to the society. But that was nothing to another case he could relate.

Just the day before that great administrator, Sir James Graham—(laughter, and "hear, hear")—left office, a steamer of the value of 50,000*l.*, was lying at Deptford, and the Admiralty had twelve tons of stores lying at Newcastle. The steamer was under orders to go to Portsmouth to take up troops immediately for the Crimea, but orders were given by the Admiralty to the owner that in her way to Portsmouth she must call at Newcastle. (Shouts of laughter, "hear, hear," and cheers.) If this was not so serious a matter for the country, he could laugh himself—but to be ordered to go to Newcastle to call for those twelve tons of stores! The owner wrote to the Secretary to the Admiralty, saying that those twelve tons could be brought up from Newcastle for 6*l.*, but that it would cost the country 2,000*l.* for the ship to go round for them. The Admiralty wrote a very angry letter, as if he was presuming to dictate to them, and ordered the ship to go round. The owner again remonstrated, and an order came down in which it was said that "Sir J. Graham insisted that the ship should be made ready to go to Newcastle to take in twelve tons of combustibles on the following Monday, on her way to Portsmouth." Still the owner said he could not put the country to the cost of 2,000*l.*, and he would not let the ship go, let the consequences be what they might. (Loud cheers.) In three days, the Admiralty being ashamed to write a contradictory order, a letter came from another department at Deptford, in which it was said, "Captain Austin begs to inform Mr. — (cries of name)"—he would give the name to any one in confidence, but he did not think he should be required to state it publicly. Well, "Captain Austin begs to inform Mr. —," that in consequence of a telegraphic message just received, it is not intended that his ship should go to the Tyne, as the articles at Newcastle will be sent thence to Woolwich." (Hear.) And so they found out their mistake at last. (Hear.) He had got another case still more monstrous ("Hear," and laughter.) A steam ship was lying at

Deptford, and the Government engineer who was to go in her lived at Woolwich. It was necessary that before the ship was engaged the engineer should inspect her engines. Orders came from the Admiralty to the owner to take her round to Woolwich, in order that the engineer might walk on board. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) The owner answered, that it would be better for the engineer to come to the ship, than for the ship to go to the engineer, and that it would cost the country less, as the engineer could come over to Deptford for 4d., and the ship would cost 100l. in going to Woolwich. The Admiralty ordered the ship to go down, but the owner said he would not send her down and that he would rather take her away from there.

He could go into a dozen cases of similar mismanagement, the details of which would make their hair stand on end. This was a very serious question, not merely as regarded the loss of money, but as regarded the disgrace such mismanagement was bringing upon us. He need not remind them that the great cause of the disasters of our army in the East arose from mismanagement. Some 90,000 or 100,000 tons of stores had been said to have been sent out to feed our army in the East, and yet our soldiers had starved uncared for, and died like dogs in ditches. On the 29th January he had moved for a return of those stores, and five months after he had obtained it; but although there was in the return accounts of other things, there was not a word about these stores in it, and he did not mean to let the Government pass by with respect to it. He had also moved for a return of the number of transports employed; and, again, after five months' delay, he had got it, but it was full of the grossest errors, such as, if they had been committed by a clerk of his, he would dismiss him immediately. He intended, if he found that the mistakes in the return were such as he thought, as a representative of the people, to insist that the men who made it out should be dismissed from the public service. (Loud cheers.) That was the way to get the right men in the right places. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. TITE, M.P., who next addressed the meeting, adverted to the subject of patronage, and was proceeding to quote the lines from Shakespeare, which he said appeared to him apposite, commencing "O that estates, &c.," when he was interrupted by a roar of laughter, arising from the fact that the same lines had been previously quoted by Mr. Layard. The honourable gentleman explained the apparent oversight by observing that he was not present when Mr. Layard spoke, and observed that the sentiment expressed would bear repetition.

After some remarks from Mr. OTWAY, M.P., the meeting was about to be dissolved, it being then ten o'clock; but there were loud and continued cries for Sir Charles Napier, who at length came forward, amidst loud cheers.

Sir C. NAPIER then said that he had not words to express his thanks for the reception they had given him—a reception he had no right to expect, being a man who had been dismissed from his command. He was not there prepared to address the assembly, but had come there merely as an observer. He, however, intended to join the association, believing that the safety of the country depended on its success. What they had seen in the Crimea, and the disasters which had happened to the army, showed that reform was required in every office under the Crown.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting was now at an end; votes of thanks to the chairman having been agreed to be dispensed with, and it was now ten o'clock. Mr. Bennoch and other gentlemen would address the next meeting, which he hoped would be on that day fortnight.

The proceedings then terminated.

PRINCE ALBERT ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Last Saturday week, the annual dinner of the Trinity House Corporation was held; Prince Albert, the Master, presiding. The fact was barely chronicled by the daily press. Some days subsequently, however, a report of the Prince's speech found its way into one of the morning journals, and was forthwith copied into all the rest. The following is the report of this neat address:—

Gentlemen,—The toast which I have now to propose to you is that of Her Majesty's Ministers. (Cheers.) If there was ever a time at which Her Majesty's Government, by whomsoever conducted, required the support, ay, not the support alone, but the confidence, good-will, and sympathy, of their fellow-countrymen, it is surely the present. (Loud cheers.) It is not the way to success in war, to support it, however ardently and enthusiastically, and, at the same time, to tie down and weaken the hands of those who have to conduct it. (Cheering.) We are engaged with a mighty enemy, who is using against us all those wonderful powers which have sprung up under the generating influence of our liberty and our civilisation. You find him with all that force which unity of purpose and action, impenetrable secrecy, and uncontrolled despotic power, have given; while we have to meet him under a state of things intended for peace, and for the promotion of that very civilisation, the offspring of public discussion, of the friction of parties, and of the popular control on the Government and the State. (Hear, hear.) The Queen has no power to levy troops, nor has she any at her command, but such as offer their voluntary services. (Hear, hear.) Her Government can take no measure for the prosecution of the War which it has not beforehand to explain in Parliament. Her armies and fleet can make no movements, nor even prepare for any, without their being publicly announced in the papers. No mistake, however trifling, can occur, no want or weakness exist, which is not at once denounced, and even sometimes exaggerated, with a kind of morbid satisfaction. (Loud and continued cheering.) The Queen's Ambassador can enter into no negotiations without the Government having to defend him by entering into all the arguments which that negotiator, in order to be successful, ought to be able to shut

up in the innermost recesses of his heart. (Loud cheers.) Nay, at the most critical position, when war and diplomatic relations may be at their height, an adverse vote in Parliament may at once deprive the Queen of the whole of her confidential servants. Gentlemen, our Constitutional Government is undergoing a heavy trial; and we shall not get successfully through it, unless the country will grant its confidence—patriotic, intelligent, and self-denying confidence—to Her Majesty's Government. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, I propose to you to drink the health of Viscount Palmerston and Her Majesty's Ministers.

The toast was drunk with great cheering. Lord Palmerston, in his reply, compared the duties of the Government to those of the Trinity House, and declared that the vessel of the State which has been entrusted to himself and his colleagues was never in better trim, never better found, never manned by a nobler crew, than it is now.

His Royal Highness has been pleased to say that a Government, especially in such periods as the present, ought to receive the generous confidence and support of the nation. I am bound to say that we have received that support, honourably and generously, from the country, and that the unanimous feeling of the nation supports us in the course which we feel it our duty to pursue; and we should indeed be unworthy of that support, we should be little deserving the high position in which it has pleased Her Majesty to place us, and in which we are supported by the confidence of the Parliament and by the support of the whole British nation, we should be unworthy of that confidence and support if we were not determined to exert our best energies, and to direct the best energies of the country, towards obtaining that victorious result of the conflict in which we are engaged, which alone can be consistent, I will not say with the honour and glory, but with the safety of the British nation.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

The Smithfield nuisance has now entirely ceased. A market which has borne sway from the earliest times, and which has been protected by charter from the first year of the reign of Edward the Third, has ceased to exist as no longer consonant to the times. The new market at Copenhagen Fields, opened by Prince Albert, on Wednesday, is so situated on the line of the North London Railway as to bring it in direct communication with the Great Northern, the London and North-Western, the Great Western, the Eastern Counties, and other railways, by which the produce from the principal agricultural counties can be delivered in the market without the dangers and annoyances attendant on the driving them through the streets, whilst the animals will be in a much better condition both for the butcher and the consumer. The market is an equal-sided rectangle, having a fall from the west corner towards the south, east, and north corners, the whole area being about fifteen and a quarter acres, though the corporation of the City purchased seventy-five acres, paying for it an average price of 800l. per acre.

Amongst the buildings in the market are four large depôts for hay, and a number of abattoirs, which will most probably be increased when the butchers have had time to accustom themselves to the novelty of the Parisian innovation. Creature comforts have, of course, not been forgotten, but are provided for by the erection of five public-houses of handsome elevation, principally occupied by the vintners of old Smithfield, and two large hotels, of which the lower portions will be divided off into shops. The centre of the market is occupied by a cluster of buildings, to be appropriated by shops and banking-houses, and the whole surmounted by a handsome clock tower, 150 feet in height, from the top of which a market bell will indicate the times at which each portion of the traffic is to commence and terminate. The whole, which has been constructed from the designs of Mr. Bunning, the City architect, is surrounded by a handsome railing, with roomy-gates of elaborate design, and presents an ensemble which will entitle our London cattle market to a foremost place amongst the great food depôts of the European capitals. The electric telegraph has not been forgotten amongst the various improvements, but will have an office in the centre cluster of buildings, from which instantaneous information can always be sent to the various grazing districts as to the fluctuations of the market. The total cost of the undertaking to the City is said to have exceeded 400,000l. Prince Albert was received at the principal entrance of the market, on Wednesday, by the Lord Mayor and Corporation. An address was presented, to which His Royal Highness made the following reply:—

My Lord Mayor and Gentlemen,—Accept the expression of my hearty thanks for your kind welcome, and for the gratifying assurance of your loyal and affectionate attachment to the Queen and her family.

I have been much pleased by the opportunity which your kind invitation has afforded me of seeing and admiring the great work which you this day open to the public, a work which not only deserves all admiration in itself on account of the excellence of the arrangement and the magnificence of the design, but which will, I trust, be found eminently conducive to the comfort and health of the city of London. That its success will be commensurate with the spirit in which it has been undertaken and carried out, I cannot doubt. A certain dislocation of habits and interests must inevitably attend the removal of the great City market from the site it has occupied for so many centuries, and this may possibly retard for the moment the fullest development of the undertaking. But any opposition arising from such causes will soon cease, and the farmers will doubtless soon learn to appreciate the boon thus conferred upon them by the London Corporation, in the increased facility which will be afforded to them for the transaction of their business, and the comparative security with which they will be enabled to bring

up and display their valuable stock in the Great Metropolitan Cattle Market.

Postscript.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords last night, Lord LYNDBURST indefinitely postponed the motion on the Vienna negotiations, of which he had given notice for Friday next.

The Friendly Societies Bill was read a second time on the motion of Lord PORTMAN.

Some other business was also dispatched, after which their Lordships adjourned.

The House of Commons, at the morning sitting, after a short preliminary discussion, was occupied in committee with the details of the Tenants' Improvements Compensation (Ireland) Bill.

On resuming at six o'clock, in reply to Sir J. SHELLEY, Sir G. GREY stated that the accumulation of business, private and public, already before the House, forbade the possibility of introducing a bill for the reform of the City of London Corporation during the present session.

On the motion of Mr. MACKINNON, the appointment of a select committee was sanctioned "to inquire into the circumstances of the expedition to the Arctic Seas commanded by Captain Macleure, with the view of ascertaining whether any and what reward may be due for the services rendered on that occasion."

Certain returns were ordered on the motion of Captain L. VERNON and Mr. I. BUTT, with the concurrence of Mr. Monsell, respecting the execution and terms of the contract entered into by Messrs. Fox and Henderson with the Ordnance-office for the erection of a manufactory for Lancaster shell at Woolwich.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES.

Mr. L. KING moved a series of resolutions touching the consolidation of the statute law, and, after recapitulating the proceedings, the cost, and the abortive labours of several successive commissions appointed to investigate the subject, insisted on the necessity of preparing immediately an authentic and expurgated list of the laws now in force, from which the perplexing mass of obsolete, expired, and repealed acts, or parts of acts, were duly obliterated. He quoted the authority of Lord Lyndhurst for the statement that, of 16,500 laws still remaining on the statute-book, no less than 14,000 were defunct, actually or practically, and declared that, if the task were assigned to experienced literary hands, a complete and accurate digest of the statutes still in force could be prepared in the course of a few months for a slight expense, and comprised in a book of moderate compass.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL remarked upon the magnitude of the task to be accomplished before an accurate digest of the statute law could be prepared. The work, he intimated, was now under investigation by commissioners, whose labours, however, were too recently commenced to afford any practical result which could be used at present. Under these circumstances, he deprecated any interference with the exertions of the commission, from which much good was anticipated.

After some brief remarks from Mr. Napier and Mr. Malins, Mr. Massey, Mr. M'Mahon, Mr. Hadfield, and Mr. Craufurd, Mr. Locke King replied, and the House divided—

For the resolutions..... 43
Against 26—17

ARMY COMMISSIONS.

Mr. HEADLAM moved a resolution designed to result in an address to the Crown, praying for such alterations in the rules of the military service as might secure the return of the regulation value of commissions purchased by officers in the army who might die or be killed in active service to the relatives or representatives of the deceased, with an accompanying assurance that any expenditure incurred for such a purpose would be made good by the House. The repayment contemplated by his motion was advocated by the honourable member as being an act of mere justice, as well as a suggestion of expediency, especially in time of war.

Mr. PEEL objected to the form of the proposed resolution, arguing that it introduced a general principle under the cover of a particular case. If the purchase money of commissions were returned to the heirs of officers killed in the Russian war, it would be impossible to refuse a similar restitution to the representatives of those who might die in services of any description.

The motion was supported by Colonel Dunne, Lord A. Paget, Colonel North, and Mr. Rice.

Lord PALMERSTON urged that the proposition then presented was connected with the wide and vexed question respecting the purchase and sale of commissions in the army, and could not expediently be dealt with separately. He suggested that by way of compromise an arrangement might be effected, allowing the representatives of officers killed in action to elect between the pensions and allowances to which they might be entitled, and the price of the commission which had been held by their deceased relatives. In the prospect of such a scheme being carried out, he trusted that the subject would be left in the hands of the Government.

Mr. HEADLAM consented to accept the arrangement proposed by the Prime Minister, and the motion was then by leave withdrawn.

The Justices of Peace Qualification Bill went through committee.

The House adjourned at half-past ten o'clock.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BALTIC.

CROONSTADT, JUNE 11.—The combined fleets are still lying before Cronstadt, spending the time in reconnoitering the enemy, in exercising the men aloft, at great gun drill, manning and arming boats, &c. On Tuesday, June 5, the Hogue, Colossus, Magicienne, Amphion, and the gunboat Gleaner were sent on detached service to Baro Sound, followed by the Locust, with a collier in tow. The French ships exercised their crews at the great guns, firing shot at targets moored at 800 and 1,200 yards. The practice on board the Austerlitz was most excellent, shot after shot being fired with such precision as to cause the admiration of all who witnessed it. In half a dozen shots the target was smashed to atoms.

JUNE 9.

At noon, the Merlin, carrying the French Admiral Peneud and several French and English captains, proceeded to reconnoitre Cronstadt. They were attended by the Dragon, Firefly, and corvette D'Assas. Going first along the north side of the island they approached within 4,000 yards of the blockships lying in the open water between Cronstadt and St. Petersburg. They consisted of four liners, five frigates, and two corvettes, moored in a line along the three-fathom bank, with their broadsides bearing upon the northern passage. Inside these, fourteen steam gunboats lay at anchor, and under the wall of Man-of-War Harbour, anchored in three lines, were twenty-four row gunboats. When the Merlin went in so close two of the steam gunboats came out, and one fired a heavy shot at her, but it fell short. In the Man-of-War Harbour were seventeen line-of-battle ships, four of them fully rigged, and the others in progress. Between this harbour and Fort Kronslot were ten steamers of various sizes, some of them screws, and between Kronslot and Fort Menschikoff two three-deckers are moored bow to bow with their broadsides commanding the only entrance. The island seems full of soldiers, for, besides those quartered in the town and batteries, three large camps were formed outside—two on the north, and the other on the south side. Immense new earthworks have been erected this spring; a complete chain of them runs from the Governor's house across the island to the old Kessell Battery, dividing it into halves—one fortified, the other without a gun upon it. Just as the Merlin was returning, and when going about seven knots an hour, a severe shock was felt, as if she had struck upon a sunken pile. It made the ship quiver from stem to stern. The engines were instantly stopped and reversed, but before she had stern way upon her another blow, ten times more severe than the first, struck her on the starboard bow, just before the paddle-wheel, sensibly lifting her over to port, and making her masts bend and shake as if they would topple down. The Firefly was immediately in the Merlin's wake, and before she could stop, she ran to starboard of the Merlin, and partly turned round, when a tremendous explosion took place under her bows, causing her to stagger, and proving very plainly that they were over a nest of Professor Jacobi's infernal machines, the existence of which is now beyond a doubt, and also that they are not such very formidable affairs after all. They then proceeded carefully until they got into deep water without meeting with any more, and then reconnoitred the south side, getting so near the shore as to witness a sort of review of the Russian horse artillery, and afterwards returned to the fleet. A diver was immediately sent down to examine the Firefly, and not the slightest injury could be detected, but inside the ship almost every bit of crockeryware was broken, and the bulkheads thrown down or displaced. On examining the Merlin, eight sheets of her copper were blown, not scraped, off, and the side appeared charred. All the inside fittings of the engineer's bath-room, mess-room, and store-room were completely demolished. An iron tank, which was bolted to the ship's side, and contained thirteen cwt. of tallow, was knocked a distance of four feet. Shot were shaken out of the racks, and almost everything moveable in the ship was displaced. It is supposed these machines have been laid down since Admiral Dundas reconnoitred the place the last time; for, after he returned, two steamers came from the harbour, and were busily employed for some time.

JUNE 10.

To-day being Sunday, nothing has occurred worthy of notice. The summer season is set in. At noon the reading of the thermometer in the open air and in the shade was 74 deg. Fahrenheit; in the sun, 86 deg.; the temperature of the sea, 60 deg.; wind light; the air sultry and oppressive. The sun will soon attain its maximum altitude above and its minimum depression below the horizon. During another month there will be in reality but a single day; it is now as easy to read or write at 12 p.m. as at any other period of the twenty-four hours. Up to the present time the fleet is healthy.

If the information I have received be correct, which I believe it will prove to be, all ideas of attacking either Sweaborg or Cronstadt are abandoned. At the former the Russians, since last year, have erected no less than fourteen additional batteries, some of them mounting as many as fifty guns. The defences of the latter have been also considerably strengthened by means of earthworks, and both are deemed unassailable by our naval forces. The ports of Revel and Riga are of great importance to the enemy, and to wrest them from him would be a step in the right direction, and would show that the most magnificent and most powerful fleet which has ever been congregated on the waters had performed some of the important objects of its mission.

The transit by sea of commodities from Sweden being prevented by the blockade of the ports in the Gulf of Bothnia, the Russians are making great efforts

to effect a land route between Tornea and the Swedish territories, by which foreign productions, a scarcity of which is already being felt at St. Petersburg, may be forwarded through Finland to the Imperial city.

THE CRIMEA.

The only news from the Crimea is a despatch, dated June 16th, published in a second edition of the *Morning Post*, to the effect that the bombardment of Sebastopol would be recommenced immediately. The *Times'* Paris Correspondent, writing on Monday night says:—

The same gloomy reports that prevailed yesterday were repeated to-day; a battle lost—immense loss—General Pelissier killed, and other calamities of the kind, were given as accounting for the silence of the *Moniteur*, and to these was added the illness of the Emperor. With respect to the news from the Crimea, I am informed that up to two o'clock p.m. this day no intelligence of importance reached the War-office. Two despatches were received yesterday, but they related to details of service, and refer to no new encounter with the enemy; so, at all events, we are told. One of the despatches states the loss of the French in the combat of the 7th to be 600 killed and 2,000 wounded; and that sustained by the Russians is estimated by General Pelissier at three times the amount. But it is affirmed that of the disastrous news so freely set afloat on Saturday, yesterday, and to-day, nothing is known among official people. It was also said yesterday, that the Emperor was ill; but we learn from the *Moniteur* that he passed the afternoon in giving audience to foreign Commissioners sent to the Exhibition, and other personages presented by their respective Ambassadors.

It is remarked that all the Court speculators on the Bourse are selling.

Private letters from St. Petersburg, from persons the most devoted to the Russian Government and Court, mention that it would be difficult to give a just idea of the consternation occasioned among all classes, from the highest to the lowest, by the news that our troops had occupied Kerch, that our ships had entered the Sea of Azov, and that we had burned or otherwise destroyed the immense stores accumulated in those parts for the army of Sebastopol.

Letters from Brussels state that the choicest troops of the Russian army are on their way to the Crimea, so that we had better make haste and finish Sebastopol before they arrive.

Mr. C. H. Bracebridge has sent home from Scutari, under date of the 7th, a brief narrative of Miss Nightingale's labours at Balaklava, and her return to Scutari in Lord Ward's yacht. At the date mentioned she was extremely weak, but "has no remains of fever and no danger is apprehended." She trusts to be soon able to return to Balaklava. Miss Nightingale was visited while sick by Lord Raglan at the huts, and again on board the yacht, and was received on landing at Scutari by Lord W. Paulet, Commandant, Dr. Cumming, Inspector-General, and Dr. McGregor, Deputy Inspector. The house of the chaplain is placed at her disposal, and she has been offered the use of the British Palace at Pera by Lord and Lady Stratford de Redcliffe.

The *Monitore Toscano* publishes telegraphic despatches from Rome of the 12th, relating to the late attempt against the life of Cardinal Antonelli. It appears that the Cardinal was issuing from the Palace of the Vatican to enjoy a walk, when, while descending the steps before the entrance, a man named Defellicis, a hatmaker by trade, rushed on him, and attempted to stab him, but was providentially stopped in time, and arrested. These are the only details as yet received.

A petition against the Education Bills now before Parliament was carried on Tuesday, in convocation of the University of Oxford, by 45 votes to 10.

The evidence against Messrs. Davidson and Gordon was completed at the Guildhall yesterday, and they were committed for trial. There was again a large attendance of the mercantile interest.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. STRAHAN.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Strahan, Paul, and Bates, was held at the Law Institution yesterday afternoon, to consider the steps to be taken to secure a full investigation of the petition recently opened in bankruptcy. Between fifty and sixty persons were present, nearly the whole of whom are connected with the legal profession, and the chair was occupied by Mr. E. S. Leo. It was explained by Mr. Futvoys, who has adopted the initiative, that a number of the creditors who have suffered largely through the stoppage of this firm, are desirous of a thorough inquiry into its affairs, and are consequently prepared to pursue such measures as shall insure that object. Mr. Lawrance explained that, acting for the petitioning creditor, he had advised a fiat in bankruptcy. Through the run on the Friday and Saturday, the funds of the establishment had been diminished between 22,000*l.* and 24,000*l.*, and, notwithstanding their promptitude with the petition, the sheriff's officer entered on behalf of the Crown, and secured 2,000*l.*, the remainder of the available cash, besides which it was necessary to give him an undertaking to pay 700*l.* or 800*l.* additional, to prevent him seizing the books and closing the premises altogether. With regard to the choice of assignees, it was proposed to name Mr. Barwis, an accountant and navy agent, and Mr. Montagu Tatham, a proctor; and if the creditors present thought fit to select a third, there would be little difficulty. After a long consultation, in which the deplorable condition of the estate, and the heavy sums for which certain contractors stand indebted to the firm were alluded to, it was agreed to support the choice of assignees proposed, adding the name of Mr. Appleyard, of Lincoln's-inn. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Lawrance stated distinctly that he should be

entirely without restraint as the representative of the petitioning creditor, and that he, as well as the whole of the parties concerned, saw the necessity of an unfettered investigation. It was stated that there is scarcely a tradesman among the debtors under the estate—the legal profession, through themselves or their clients, being the principal sufferers. The two firms of Messrs. Strahan, Paul, and Co., and Messrs. Halford and Co., are identical; but the opinion is that the latter will, as far as its separate position is concerned, be found in a much better position than the former. Some French railway concessions may, it is thought, produce an addition to the assets.

Preparations are being made at Turin for the reception of the King of Portugal and the Duke of Oporto.

Yesterday, in the Court of Exchequer, in the case of Boyle v. Wiseman, the rule recently obtained to set aside the verdict for the plaintiff, on the ground of the rejection of evidence offered by the defendant, and also for excessive damages, was made absolute.

Yesterday afternoon Her Majesty and Prince Albert visited Fort Pitt. The whole of the wounded troops who were in a condition to leave their beds were drawn up in two lines on the lawn of the hospital, each man having a card containing the particulars of his name, age, corps, where wounded, and the nature of his wounds. Her Majesty passed along the front of each line, inspecting each man, and occasionally addressing kind observations to those who particularly attracted her notice. Dr. Perry, one of the medical staff of the hospital, drew Her Majesty's attention to any cases of particular interest. The number of patients in Fort Pitt is upwards of 200, the whole of whom Her Majesty inspected.

A shocking occurrence took place at Bristol on Sunday. It seems that the ship *Duncan*, of Liverpool, manned by an Indian crew, was lying in the Floating Harbour, near Cannon's-marsh, where she was undergoing a thorough cleansing and purification. During the operation, it was found that she was much infested with rats; and her master, Captain David Dryborough, with a view to destroy them, directed the serang, or boat-swain, to dig two holes in her ballast, and put in each some charcoal and 3lb. of brimstone, and cause them to be set fire to. In order to guard against the possibility of accident to any of the crew, he saw that they were all assembled on deck, and had explained to them the danger attending the operation. At about twelve o'clock on Saturday night, Sali, a Mohammedan sailor, with another of the crew, and a woman came on to the planks to board the vessel, but were ordered off by the shipkeeper. Some time later they again presented themselves, and were again refused leave to bring the woman on board. Ultimately about two o'clock, they contrived, while the shipkeeper was in the fore part of the vessel, to slip on board, when they got into the fore-castle, raised one of the hatchways, and went below. At a little before six o'clock they were discovered, Sali and the woman quite dead, and the Malay almost dead from suffocation. The survivor, under skilful treatment, is proceeding favourably. An inquest was held on the bodies yesterday by the city coroner, Mr. J. B. Grindon, and, after hearing a number of witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally suffocated with the fumes of sulphur."

The following is a return of the total amount of education grants from the Privy Council to the various elementary schools throughout Scotland, of all sects and persuasions, from 1833 to 1855—viz., to elementary schools in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, 91,002*l.*; to Free Church of Scotland schools, 71,815*l.*; to Episcopalian Church schools, 2,495*l.*; to Roman Catholic Church schools, 2,719*l.*; to schools in connexion with other denominations than the foregoing, 409*l.*; to normal schools in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, 23,059*l.*; and to normal schools connected with the Free Church, 16,277*l.* This makes a grand total of 207,778*l.* up to the 22nd May, 1855.

Other suspensions in the iron trade, in addition to those already announced, have occurred within the last few days in South Staffordshire. Messrs. Whitehouse and Jefferies, of the Phoenix Works, West Bromwich, have issued circulars, calling their creditors together at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Friday next, for the purpose of determining the course to be taken with the view of managing and distributing the assets of the estate. The creditors of Mr. Jefferies, ironmaster, of Hart's-hill Works, were also summoned for the same day and for a like purpose. The debts and liabilities of the two concerns, which in some degree are understood to be connected, are roughly quoted at about 100,000*l.* A third firm of some standing and well known in the trade—that of Messrs. Hickman, of Bilston—have been compelled to ask indulgence from their creditors, and a meeting has been called to adjudicate upon the state of their affairs. And lastly, Mr. Joseph Spencer, ironmaster, who is involved by the failure of his brother, Mr. Thomas Spencer, is endeavouring to negotiate an arrangement with the claimants upon his estate, which, it is hoped, will realise 6*s.* in the pound. Other firms are freely spoken of, but sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, Wednesday, June 20.

We are to-day in better tone than of late for every article, particularly oats: prices as on Monday.

Arrivals this week.—Wheat, English, 650 qrs; foreign, 6,590 qrs. Barley, English, 2,280 qrs.; foreign, 1,020 qrs. Oats, English, 1,020 qrs; Irish, 2,410 qrs; foreign, 11,590 qrs. Flour English, 1,170 qrs; Irish —; foreign, 950 sacks, — barrels.

The Nonconformist.

ALTERATIONS CONSEQUENT ON THE NEW NEWSPAPER STAMP BILL.

On and after Wednesday, July 4th, before which date the Act of Parliament abolishing the compulsory Newspaper Stamp becomes law, the following important alterations will be made in the NONCONFORMIST:—

Heretofore we have published a sheet of very inconvenient size, containing twenty-four pages. We now propose to reduce the size to TWENTY PAGES, or SIXTY COLUMNS, like the present, and to print on Two SHEETS, one containing sixteen pages, and the other four; the latter will be extended to eight or more pages whenever pressure of news or advertisements renders it necessary. This small reduction of size will hardly be noticed by our readers, inasmuch as none of the important features by which the paper has hitherto been distinguished will be omitted.

The price of the NONCONFORMIST will also be reduced one penny, in addition to the penny for the stamp, where that is not required, consequently the price of single copies will be

Unstamped . . . Fourpence.
Stamped . . . Fivepence.

The stamped copies have the privilege of retransmission by post, as often as required, for fifteen days after date, if so folded as to show the whole of the stamp. The unstamped copies, not exceeding four ounces in weight, may be posted without restriction of time, by attaching an ordinary penny postage stamp each time.

That our subscribers, at a distance from the Publishing-office, who require the service of the Post-office, may derive the fullest possible advantage from these alterations, we propose to make the subscription for stamped copies TWENTY SHILLINGS A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

So that for about *fourpence halfpenny* a copy, our Annual Subscribers will receive the NONCONFORMIST free by post, with the privilege of retransmission for fifteen days.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

| | Stampd. | Unstampd. |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| For one Quarter . . . | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| „ Half-year . . . | 0 5 5 | 4 4 |
| „ a Year . . . | 1 0 0 | 17 4 |

From these terms no abatements will be allowed, except to the trade.

A circular and handbills will be ready in a few days; and Mr. FREEMAN will be happy to forward any quantity of them at the request of subscribers, and to receive any suggestions for increasing the circulation of the NONCONFORMIST, with which friends may obligingly furnish him.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The terms for Advertisements in the *Nonconformist* are as follows:—

One line A Shilling.
Each additional line . . . Sixpence.

There are, on an average, eight words in a line.

Advertisers of all classes will find the *Nonconformist* a valuable medium for their announcements.

Subscriptions and Advertisements for the *Nonconformist*, with Post-office Orders, payable at the General Post-office, should be addressed to the Publisher, Mr. WILLIAM FREEMAN, 69, FLEET-STREET, LONDON.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. W.—The landlord is right; unless the agreement provides for three months' notice from either of the usual quarter-days.

J. RATTRAY, Geelong.—Received, with thanks.

W. D.—Unstamped newspapers may be sent to the

colonies, subject to the regulations for book-postage, contained in a Treasury Warrant issued last week.

THE CHANGES IN THE "NONCONFORMIST."—We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of many letters from subscribers and friends, offering their kind aid in extending our circulation, and in many cases expressing approval of the changes we propose carrying into effect on the 5th of July. Some one or two express regret that with the reduction of price to two-thirds of the present price of the paper, we should be obliged to make any limitation of space, and express a strong hope, in which we most cordially concur, that the result of our present efforts may so greatly increase our circulation, as to dispense with that prudential arrangement. Should our circulation be doubled, or very largely increased, we shall most gladly retain our present size. But those of our friends who most strongly object to the limitation must see, on reflection, the absolute necessity of consulting commercial as well as other considerations in any new arrangements, and may rest assured that our liberality will keep pace with the support we receive. From the correspondence now before us, we make only one extract, sent by a subscriber at Farnham. It may be taken as a specimen of the rest:—

We are now called upon, not only to look to our principles, but to the *organ* which has so nobly and successfully defended and diffused those principles. The effect of the Newspaper Stamp Bill must be a trial to the standing of many papers; but surely the friends of Nonconformity will unite and exert themselves, with their leader, in establishing a firm basis for the *Nonconformist*.

Let our ministers urge it upon the members of their individual Churches. Some members might take a copy; others who could not afford one copy may join, two or three together, and thus become readers. Superintendents of Sabbath-schools can urge it in the same way among Sabbath-school teachers. Some Sabbath-schools might, perhaps, be able to take in one or two copies, and defray the expense from the school funds; and these copies might be circulated among those Sabbath-school teachers who could not afford to take a whole copy. Private individuals can work on the same principle in their own locality.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1855.

SUMMARY.

ATTENTION is diverted, for the moment, from the intelligence of operations in the Crimea—though hourly increasing in importance, by the report of a transaction in the Baltic—perfidious and bloody as any that the records of war, despotism, or barbarism can show. Her Majesty's ship *Cossack* having been ordered by Admiral Dundas to land at, or near Hango, a party of seven Finnish prisoners, taken from the coasting vessels recently destroyed, sent out a boat's crew with that intention. Both the vessel and cutter hoisted a flag of truce, and the latter was in sight of the shore fully half an hour, without exciting any response. Perceiving only a single Russian on the jetty of the harbour, and that he ran away at her approach, the lieutenant in command of the boat, accompanied by the surgeon (who seems to have intended purchasing something of the town-people), stepped ashore, with the prisoners and their baggage. Immediately, several hundred soldiers, dressed as riflemen, emerged from behind the rocks and houses. The lieutenant waved the flag, and explained in English the object of the visit. The officer in command of the Russians knew enough of our language to reply with an English oath that he did not care for the flag of truce, and ordered his men to fire. The surgeon and lieutenant fell first. One of the prisoners—a Finnish captain—caught up the flag, waved it over his head, and repeated in a language that could not be misunderstood, that the English were his liberators. Another volley shot down him and his companions. The boatmen suffered the same fate. A shower of balls stretched every one of the twelve who had been left at the oars wounded or lifeless. To complete the massacre, the prostrate were stabbed with the bayonet,—and the only survivor was a black man, who feigned to be already dead, and who actually lay among the dead, from the time of their surprise—the forenoon of June the 5th—until, under cover of the night, he could cut the rope and put off. A second boat was sent out in the afternoon to search for the cutter, saw her lying under the jetty, containing only motionless bodies,—and, being beckoned to from the shore, feared another ambush. When, early next morning, the cutter was picked up on a search among the islands, the solitary survivor told his mournful tale, and his dead companions were buried in the sea;—on the farthest shores of which the story of their fate will kindle indignant horror.

News from the Crimea is compounded of details of events already known, and uncertain announcements of events to be expected. It was yesterday given out that General Pelissier had telegraphed, "The bombardment will be resumed immediately," and the day before that a great battle

had been fought. The position of our forces is such as to render either event highly probable. The French lines are now advanced to the edge of Careening Bay, within the Harbour, and their cavalry water at the Tchernaya. The enemy's forces behind his walls is understood to be so greatly reduced by sickness as no longer to oppose our assaults with unequal numbers, and in the field may be encountered with the certainty of success. Our more sanguine contemporaries are already offering to Prince Gortschakoff the alternative of surrender or destruction; and the least confident may hope for an early termination of the suspense that is fraught with anxiety as well as expectation. Sooner or later, the Crimea,—for what it is worth,—may, doubtless, be ours; the grave of an army, and the site of a monument.

The believers in Russia's internal vulnerability are further encouraged by reports of her evident distress. The military resources of the empire are said to have been so heavily taxed that the supply no longer answers to the demand—that the defence of the coasts of Finland, in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital, has to be entrusted to Asiatics—that the inhabitants of the great towns at either extremity are suffering privations—and that the general discontent has found expression in an address from the Synod of St. Petersburg, praying the Emperor to show himself as well disposed to peace "as the political interests of the State will permit." In all this there may be truth without exaggeration, and yet the desired end be far off. So long as influential English newspapers talk with complacency of protracted war, and Ministers get larger majorities in the Commons, as their voices rise higher in the strife, peace will not come of the sufferings of Russian serfs, or the destruction of Russian outposts.

The Premier has climaxed his recent triumphs by pressing Prince Albert into the train of his applauders. A dinner at the Trinity House, so long ago as Saturday se'nnight, is of present interest, from the fact of the Prince having then delivered a speech—suspiciously suppressed up to Thursday last—in which he represents the administration of Lord Palmerston as the only equivalent for the evils of Constitutional Government. An epigrammatic summary of the disadvantages of a sovereign limited in prerogative by representative institutions and an inquisitive people, at war with a sovereign who can take his own supplies, and keep his own secrets, is followed by an appeal for unmeasured confidence in Her Majesty's Ministers. Such, at least, is the report furnished by the organ of the Minister whom Prince Albert's Sovereign Lady dismissed for pledging her approval to a *coup d'état*. May we not hope that his Royal Highness, content with having completed the cycle of Palmerstonian compensations, will in future confine his utterances to the character of most illustrious of graziers? in which he appeared with advantage, on Wednesday last, in opening the New Metropolitan Cattle Market.

The present interest of the Drury-lane Administrative Reform Meetings is eclipsed by that of the debate which opportunely followed, and of the Sebastopol Committee Report. But, in truth, the significance of these latter is only felt in conjunction with the former. The earnestness and resolution displayed in the popular assemblage, is the only guarantee for the success of the cause adopted with a delusive unanimity by the legislative body. Without disparaging the worth of Mr. Disraeli's intentions or of Mr. Gladstone's beginnings, we must avow our belief that nothing at all proportionate to the real necessities of the country, or accordant with the just relations of its different classes, would be accomplished by either statesman. It may be in their will, but it is not in their power, until they cut themselves loose from the machinery by which at once they operate and are imprisoned. As to the ministerial proposals, deeming them utterly wanting in the first grace of the reformer—sincerity, we hold ourselves excused from discussing their practical value. We have concessions from this quarter and from that—a very competition of concessions. It is for the new movement to push them beyond the region of compromise and party purpose; and the tone of its leaders indicates that it will not halt while the people will follow.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE bill for putting some check on Sunday trading in the metropolis, introduced some time since by Lord Robert Grosvenor, and which passed its second reading by a large majority, was considered in committee on Wednesday last, after another discussion on its principle, if principle it can be said to embody. It is a curiously exceptional measure, wholly unsatisfactory in a religious point of view, and extremely partial and incomplete in the view of those who, on civil grounds, would protect the Sabbath as a day of rest. It is framed to apply to such places as the Lambeth New Cut, and Houndsditch, in

which active trading on Sunday forenoons, like unsightly eruptions on the body, indicates the prevalence of spiritual disease, and proclaims aloud that there are neighbourhoods in which spiritual influence needs to be put forth. But whilst the measure would close the grocers', butchers', bakers', and tallow-chandlers' shops, it would also legalise the sale of fish, milk, wild-fowl, and newspapers within certain hours. The evil sought to be remedied, which none can deprecate more earnestly than do we, is one which cannot be topically dealt with, at least with any prospect of real success. Law may drive the mischief into holes and corners, and may protect the consciences of men who have no firmness to protect themselves—but the great question involved is only mystified, in our judgment, by these attempts at petty legislation. So it seemed on Wednesday, when half a dozen divisions took place on such small matters as whether milk should be permitted to be sold till ten o'clock on Sunday, or whether its sale should be prohibited after the clock has struck nine. The bill did not make much progress in committee.

Thursday night was wholly engrossed in reading a second time the Victoria and the New South Wales Government Bills. Mr. Bell moved an amendment on the former, and Mr. Lowe on the latter, of these bills, to the effect that they be read a second time six months hence. Mr. Bell's objection to the Victoria Government Bill, in which he was seconded by Mr. Miall, was grounded on the circumstances under which a clause for the appropriation of 50,000*l.* annually from the colonial revenues, to the support of religious worship, was brought before the House. He stated frankly that he did not wish to interfere with the right of the Colonists to make this provision, if so they thought fit—but inasmuch as the Colonial Legislature had exceeded its legal powers in this and other matters, and had been compelled to seek the sanction of the Imperial Parliament, he could not give his assent to the enactment. He was most unwilling to reject the bill which had framed for Victoria a liberal constitution—but understanding that he could not deal with the objectionable clauses or schedule in committee, he was driven to take the only course left open to him. Mr. Lowe took other ground, contending that the bill was a nullity, and ought to be referred back to the colony—that having been already altered by Ministers, it was no longer the same measure which had been forwarded for the Royal assent—and that no provision of Parliament could give it legal force and effect. His argument was most acutely put, as well as ingeniously conceived—but it struck us, as it seemed to do the majority of the House, that it was *too* ingenious, too finely-spun to endure the rough handling of common sense. The debate on the two bills brought out several unfavourable phases of colonial government as at present managed. Mr. Bell withdrew his amendment on the assurance of the Speaker that he could attain his object in committee. Mr. Lowe pressed his motion to a division, and lost it by a large majority.

The long-expected motion on Administrative Reform was brought forward on Friday night by Mr. Layard, in a speech of great length, of studied moderation, and of great power. The hon. member availed himself of the opportunity to set himself right with the House in relation to some former inaccuracies of statement. The consequence was that his speech was listened to throughout with attention and respect. He was not much cheered; the nature of his subject, and the strain of his argument, forbade that; but neither was he discouraged by a show of indifference, nor interrupted by noisy exclamations. He established the necessity of reform in the administration of our military, diplomatic, and civil services, and pointed out some of the remedies which he thought might meet the evil. On the whole, he redeemed his position, and was, perhaps, more subdued in tone than was really necessary. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton moved an amendment on Mr. Layard's motion, with the express object, as he himself confessed, of affirming the necessity of administrative reform, and of detaching it from out-door agitation altogether. In other words, he availed himself of a powerful popular cry, attempted to turn it to party purposes, and dealt a rude, back-handed blow at those who had forged the weapon which he wielded. He did abundant homage, however, to the principle contended for. The two nights' debate which ensued on these rival propositions, was somewhat heavy, but not without occasional gleams of instruction. Sir Stafford Northcote gave, as the result of his professional inquiries as a Commissioner, this significant fact, that in the civil service there was no promotion by merit to the higher appointments, and consequently no energy nor ability among the clerks. Mr. Gladstone, although unable to concur in the motion or the amendment, was most favourably disposed to the movement for Administrative Reform, and to public competition to candidates for place, which, he thought, would greatly stimulate the educa-

tion of the people. The Chancellor of the Exchequer threatened resignation if the House adopted Mr. Layard's motion, saw neither good nor harm in Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's, and concluded a brief and very feeble speech, by saying that the cause of Administrative Reform was safer in the hands of the present Government, than in those of Administrative Reformers themselves. "All right! Drive on." Such was the substance of the observations he made to a deriding House.

Lord Goderich opened the second night's debate. Circumstances were unfortunate for him. The report of the Sebastopol Committee had just been read at the table of the House by the chief clerk, who reads most laboriously, and with perpetual blunders, and this task had occupied him and the House above an hour. As soon as it was done, there was a rush of members into the lobby, and most of those who remained engaged in chat upon the report they had just heard. The consequence was that in the earlier part of his speech the noble lord was surrounded by a most discouraging murmur of conversation, than which nothing is better calculated to make a man lose his presence of mind. But there was a manliness of tone about the noble lord's observations that could not fail of making an impression, especially when he called for Administrative Reform as a means of saving the aristocracy from indiscriminate and, therefore, undeserved odium. Mr. F. Peel came out strong in defence of the administration of the army, and was great in details, but even he professed himself as favourable as any member of the Reform Association to the principle of obtaining properly-qualified men for the public service. Mr. Drummond indulged more than usually in what Mr. Disraeli termed "the Rabbelaisian humour," peculiar to the Hon. Member, and sneered at the phrase "Administrative Reform," as one devoid of all definite significance. The right honourable member for Buckinghamshire, in order to show up this mistake, entered into a sensible and interesting account of the meaning which he attached to the term, which he claimed to have been the first to use in the House of Commons, and the first practical step towards it, he thought, should be the appointment of a Royal Commission of practical men to inquire into the best manner in which the public departments might be conducted. But as he believed that "the disasters" to which Mr. Layard's motion referred were attributable to the heterogeneous construction of the Aberdeen Cabinet, he could not vote for that motion which would, if adopted, act as a conductor in carrying off public indignation from the Government on account of failures for which they only were responsible. Lord Palmerston closed with a speech which was laudatory, not so much of the intentions, but of the reforming achievements of his own Administration. But after reading Mr. Layard an angry lecture, on the severe remarks he had made on him at the Drury-lane Theatre, he baffled the party tactics of the Opposition, by accepting their amendment, and virtually justified and vindicated the movement which has been set on foot, by pledging himself that there should be not only a revision, but a continued revision, of the different offices of the civil service.

Mr. Lindsay moved the further adjournment of the debate, and after a little scene between him and Admiral Berkeley, in which the latter was anything but courteous, the House divided on the question of adjournment, which it negatived by a majority of 336 to 83. Mr. Layard's motion was then put, and rejected by 359 to 46. Sir E. B. Lytton's amendment was afterwards put as an original resolution, and on Mr. Lindsay's motion, the debate on it was adjourned to Thursday next.

THE REPORT, THE DEBATE, AND THE DIVISION.

MR. LAYARD has been rewarded for the voluntary postponement of his motion on administrative reform, by a remarkable conjunction of prepared and accidental accessories. On Wednesday last, one of those enormous assemblages which only special excitement can convoke—the visible upheaving, as it were, of subterranean power—adopted him as the champion of a national cause. On Monday, the presentation of the Sebastopol Committee's Report, came in to second—as with the sentence of a national tribunal—his accusation of Ministers and assertion of danger to the country.

The Report has been anticipated with such varied and high-wrought feeling, that it can hardly fail to disappoint, or, rather, dissatisfy. As the conjoint utterance of well-balanced and deeply-interested parties, it is necessarily a compromise—but it is not a disgraceful compromise. If it is not so clear and emphatic a condemnation of Ministers as the evidence would justify, it is as complete a vindication of their accusers as the most inordinate self-love could desire. If it avoids, by the artifices of prolixity and episode, the employment of stern and indignant epithets of censure,

such as express the popular sense of justice, it supplies abundant justification of the use of hottest adjectives by the more faithful organs of that sentiment. The opening paragraphs—describing the condition of the army before Sebastopol—furnish in themselves a final refutation of the slanders on which statesmen condescended to subsist, and an imperishable monument to the honour of that institution which Lord John Russell designates the "ribald press." It writes down, with the hand of authority, and on tablets more enduring than stone, the sufferings of the troops in the trenches and in the camp—their soaked and floorless tents, their uncooked and insufficient food, their want of medicine and clothing, and the consequent aggravation of their sickness and mortality. It puts beyond the reach of appeal allegations that were at first discredited as too terrible, then denied as infamous, and at last admitted but in part. It then advances to the second and far larger part of the solemn duty imposed upon the committee,—viz., to trace home the cause of these disasters. It first fixes upon the government of Lord Aberdeen the responsibility of the expedition—quoting from instructions, issued in April, 1854, and renewed in June, directing inquiries to be made into the strength of the Russian forces in the Crimea, prohibiting operations in the Principalities (the safety of Constantinople having been secured), and laying it down (in June last!) that no peace can be made "until the fortress is reduced and the fleet taken or destroyed;"—to which instructions Lord Raglan replies, "that the descent upon the Crimea is undertaken more in deference to the views of the British Government than upon any information in the possession of the naval or military authorities." It shows that the expedition, thus long contemplated, was undertaken at last upon contradictory information, with divided authorities, most inadequate preparations, and heartless equanimity;—that the Russian forces in the Crimea were variously estimated at from thirty thousand to one hundred and twenty thousand; that though the Minister of War was relieved of the care of the colonies, there was no consolidation of his departments nor even a definition of respective duties; that the army of the East was raised by "discounting the future," was without reserves, and had drained the depôts; and that the Cabinet, content with having ordered the expedition, held no sittings during the months of August and September, despite the dissatisfaction of one of its leading members with the colleague left in solitary charge of affairs. It repeats the whole story of Ministerial ignorance and newspaper disclosures—of departmental incapacity and anarchy—of blunders at home and sufferings abroad—of the loss of the transport mules, the embarrassment of the commissariat, the omission to provide for the removal of the sick and wounded, the miseries of the hospitals at Balaklava and Scutari. It endeavours to apportion between the defects of the "system" and the misfortunes of individuals, the main cause of these latter—but it marks a "grave dereliction" of duty in the apothecary department at Scutari; imputes to dishonesty the disappearance of stores; attaches to Lord Raglan the "heavy responsibility" of retaining in office Mr. Ward; blames Dr. Menzies for not correctly reporting the state of the hospital; all which contrasts with the intelligence and zeal of Mr. Macdonald, and the "admirable devotion" of Miss Nightingale. And it closes by ascribing the sufferings of the army mainly to the "circumstances under which the expedition was undertaken,"—that Ministers, "unacquainted with the strength of the fortresses to be attacked, or with the resources of the country to be invaded, . . . hoped and expected the expedition to be immediately successful; and, as they did not foresee the probability of a protracted struggle, they made no provision for a winter campaign."

Thus, then, this famous inquiry terminates in a verdict of guilty, upon a charge only second to that of collusion with the Power with whom we are at war. The force of that verdict is not diminished by the dissolution of the body upon whose conduct it is pronounced. The elements of Lord Aberdeen's Administration are still in existence—are conspicuous in the House of Commons, and almost exclusively in possession of the Government. It was against these personages that the retrospective portion of Mr. Layard's motion was directed. It was correctly appreciated by the Minister who announced that it would be regarded as a vote of censure, and its adoption followed by resignation. With that understanding, it claimed the support of all who had, at any time, denounced the misconduct now formally condemned, and who were, at the same time, prepared to take a pledge of adhesion to a new principle of domestic policy. Under both these descriptions came the whole of Her Majesty's Opposition. It required, therefore, unusual ingenuity on the part of Mr. Disraeli to justify the competition of Sir Bulwer Lytton with Mr. Layard. He professed to find his justification in the

fact that the original resolution inadequately accounted for the disasters of the war—that it ascribed to the appointment of half-educated clerks the calamities traced by the report of the committee to incompetent Ministers. There was great apparent force in this representation; but it was only apparent. The motion did impute fault to individuals, and those of the highest official rank,—while the amendment announced only an abstract proposition or a prospective principle. The former was, it is true, only indirectly personal; but the latter was altogether impersonal. The first step in administrative reform—the punishment of more than administrative errors—was thus prevented. A “shelter” was afforded to the misdoers whom to screen is further to enervate that sense of official responsibility which is the sinews of effective Government. Beneath the same shield from under which Sir B. Lytton shot his silver-tipped arrows at Whignepotism,—Palmerston, and the family interests that have become his clients, took refuge from the blow in which the country a second time concentrated its outraged sentiment. Only forty-six could be found to affirm in the House of Commons truths with which all Britain has been ringing these many months past, and which have been echoed back from Europe and America in accents of tingling reproach. “Government by party” illustrates the merits aphoristically expressed by the literary baronet, by negating, in the people’s House, the resolution which numberless public meetings have adopted by anticipation, petitions urged the House to affirm, and old Drury stirred from a long sleep of political inactivity to support by a monster demonstration.

LATEST NEWS OF OUR “ALLY TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.”

THE protocol of the last sitting of the Vienna Conference, reports Count Buol as dismissing the diminished Plenipotentiaries with thanks—and as declaring, “Austria has no further proposition to make; but that she will, nevertheless, be always ready to transmit to the belligerent Powers the overtures which one or the other of them may have occasion to address to her.”

We have reached, then, at last, the “extent” of Austria’s alliance with the Western Powers. She who presented herself at the beginning of the affair, not as a mediator, but as a contingent belligerent; claiming to aid in the settlement of the dispute, not only as an equal but as an interested party, and taking up a military position in virtue of that claim—she who, after twelve months’ fighting, bound herself, by the treaty of December 2, to obtain the adhesion of Russia to certain terms by a certain day, or to draw the sword against her—she who induced the belligerents to send representatives to her capital, proposed to them terms distasteful to all, and gained their assent to such of those terms as were unequivocally to her own advantage—this same Austria now, forgetful of her claims, professions, and bonds, at once “shuts the door to peace,” and shuts up herself in neutrality.

Of course, she at the same time abandons the military position which constituted her morally and physically a party to the conflict? Not at all! On the contrary, she retains it with visible tenacity,—tightens her grasp upon it,—and treats it not only as a “material guarantee” of unavowed objects, but as an instrument of retrospective vengeance. The “Roving Englishman” has acquainted the whole reading public of England with the characteristics of an Austrian army of occupation—how its officers resented, as long ago as Christmas, their exclusion from the ball-rooms of light-hearted Bucharest by imprisoning the dancers within their hosts’ doorway; how a beautiful woman could not appear at a window without attracting the licentious violence of commissioned ruffians, and exposing her husband to their swords. The newspaper correspondents have reported a series of outrages and retaliations, leading up to the proclamation of martial law. Mr. Doria, an attaché of our embassy at Constantinople, ordered upon a mission of inquiry, makes an official confirmation of these reports. And there appears in the *Daily News* of Thursday last a letter from Bucharest, containing the following details:—

The Austrians appeared to temper their brutality for a short time after the proclamation of martial law in the Principalities—doubtless to assuage the irritation caused by this law, which holds death in suspense over all our heads. However, after the lapse of eight short days, they have recommenced their brigandage and assassinations with more audacity than ever. I confine myself to a notice of their assassinations in this town of Bucharest only, in the course of yesterday and the day before, to give you some idea of their proceedings. The day before yesterday they murdered a (male) cook and the son of priest Nedelea, of the parish of Batishete. The same day, four other persons were killed by them at the fair of Moschi, outside the gates of the town. Yesterday, another murder was committed at the barrière of Tesana. The Austrian Government would seem to regard these crimes as merely a guarantee for the preservation of “law and order,” which it affects to re-establish in the Principalities; for the only punishment inflicted on the guilty

is to send them back to Austria in other regiments. Count Coronini lately caused twenty unoffending Hungarians, who believed themselves in security here, to be loaded with chains and conducted into the Austrian States. One of them—an artist, a painter—died of the torture in this town. A few days ago, the Austrians burned and destroyed, in the garden of Sconfa—before the barrières of Bucharest—several thousand muskets, which had been taken from the rural population, and deposited in one of the magazines of the capital. Thus Austria is permitted to destroy the arms of a people ardently desirous to fight against Russia on the side of the Allies, and to replace them by her own bayonets, which, in the Principalities, have hitherto only served to protect the Russians towards the Pruth, and which may soon, perhaps, be turned against Turkey and the Allies.

To the melancholy statement we have italicised, M. Kossuth adds (writing in the *Atlas*), Austria has set a money-price upon the heads of Hungarians resident in Moldo Wallachia!

Well might Mr. Cobden blush at seeing the name of Russell appended to the protocol which made over to these worse than Cossacks, not only the Danubian Principalities, but also Servia,—hitherto happier in exemption from the protection of Austria or Russia, than in virtual independence of the Sultan. But how deeply ought we not all to blush, that, by our instrumentality, the protectorate has been anticipated by an occupation? It was the untimeliness of our intervention which gave Austria a voice in the question raised by the Russian passage of the Pruth. It was our arbitrary resolution to invade the Crimea, which left the Sultan no pretext for refusing the proffered introduction of Austrian troops. It was our compelling Omar Pasha to transport his veterans to Eupatoria, that freed the Croats from the restraint of a presence not always to be neutralized by the influence of the British embassy and the seraglio. It was our infatuated dalliance with Austria, our ostentatious and obstinate disclaimers of sympathy with the nationalities, which encouraged her to this last act of lawless brutality;—lawless as the seizure of the Duc D’Enghien upon neutral territory, and brutal as the bribing of Gallician peasants to kill their patriot masters. And only our prompt, energetic reclamation—our protest against this worse than Russian outrage upon the soil of Turkey—our counsel to the Sultan to demand the evacuation of the Principalities—can duly express that which every Englishman must intensely feel.

AGAIN, THE PATRIOT AND OURSELVES.

WE have been made acquainted by the *British Banner* of Wednesday last, that the *Patriot* of the previous Thursday contained an article entitled the “Ministry and the Factions,”—in which Lords Palmerston and Russell are assured that, in its opinions of them, the *Nonconformist* newspaper does not represent the Nonconformist body. We could have borne this without any violent strain upon our self-respect, even though first beheld under the portentous heading supplied by the editor of the *Banner*—“A Protest on behalf of the Nonconformists of England”—whom of course the *Banner* does represent. But we happen to have caught sight, among the citations with which our elder contemporary tessellates the article, as is his wont, of two or three which he evidently attributes to us, but which we are quite unconscious of having written. The principal passage is as follows:—

What proportion of the Nonconformists of England, we should like to know, are prepared to label Lord Palmerston as “the great political Barnum of the age?” How many of the same great body are of opinion that either truth or good taste is observed in styling Lord John Russell a “small-souled patriot,” or in speaking of him as having had “his nose tweaked by Mr. Disraeli,” and of his speech as “the whine of a coward?” Will any considerable portion of the denominations which outweigh the Established Church in numbers, and rival it in activity and zeal, if not in influence and wealth, admit that their views of men and things, or their sense of decency, are fairly represented by a journalist who not merely avows a premature rejoicing that “Mr. Layard and Mr. Disraeli have coalesced,” but declares, that, “the old woman Aberdeen was replaced by a consummate trickster—a clever knave put in the place of an imbecile, honest fool;” and calls upon the country to “begin by putting down the present most vagabond Ministers, taking vengeance on Lords Palmerston and Aberdeen, and John Russell, by putting them into exile, and excluding them for ever from power?” Is language like this the true echo of Nonconformist opinion and feeling? Are these thy Gods, O, Israel?

To the four first quoted phrases in the above collection of elegant extracts, we plead guilty. The remaining three, the *Patriot* will, in justice to himself, point out in our columns, or discriminate them from the foregoing. We resent the imputation on our style.

Rear-Admiral Charles Howe Freemantle is appointed to succeed the late Rear-Admiral Boxer as superintendent of the Transport Service at Balaklava, and will proceed out in the Prometheus steam-sloop. He retains Mr. Jeans as secretary.

We regret to learn from the *Chelmsford Chronicle* that Sir E. N. Buxton, Bart., late M.P. for the southern division of this county, is lying dangerously ill at the residence of his father-in-law, Samuel Gurney, Esq., Ham House, Upton-park.

THE WAR.

OPERATIONS IN THE SEA OF AZOFF. OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

A set of despatches was published on Wednesday evening, in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, from Lord Raglan, Sir George Brown, General d’Autemarre, Sir Edmund Lyons, Capt. Lyons, and Commander McKillop. They relate to the landing of the troops at Kertch, the seizure and opening of the Straits, and the operations in the Sea of Azoff, so far as the attack on Berdiansk, Arabat, and Genitchi are concerned; and come down to June 2.

Sir George Brown and General d’Autemarre describe the landing of the troops and their subsequent proceedings; from which we obtain a clearer idea of the nature of the service executed. It appears that the large ships could not get within three miles, and the transports only within two miles of the point of the coast selected for a landing. The troops were conveyed to the beach in boats, towed by small steamers, whose guns covered the disembarkation. At ten o’clock the first soldiers stepped ashore, and, occupying a rising ground near a salt marsh, covered the disembarkation of the remainder. It was soon after the landing of the first men of the force that the Russians began to blow up their batteries and retire; and before night all the batteries between Kamish Bourn and Kertch were blown up. Sir George Brown was precluded from advancing, because most of the Turkish troops and artillery had not landed. He therefore encamped for the night, in the best position he could, but exposed to the attacks of any adventurous Cossacks who might be disposed to do mischief. When the morning broke, there still remained much to be done in the way of debarkation; but Sir George strongly felt the necessity of moving, and at six in the morning the troops began their march on Kertch and Yenikalé.

The town of Kertch (he says) is clean, and remarkably well built; and the troops passed through it with the greatest regularity and without the slightest disorder. Subsequently, the day became excessively hot; and, the march being a long one, the men suffered greatly from fatigue and want of water, which was only to be found at occasional wells. We managed to get in here (Yenikalé), however, by one o’clock, where we were soon after visited by the three admirals, and found a large squadron of small steamers and gun-boats, ready to proceed into the Sea of Azoff, under the command of Captain Lyons, of the *Miranda*.

From a despatch written by General d’Autemarre on the 29th May we learn that the forces of the Allies were intrenched both at Kertch and Yenikalé. At Kertch, the French general had encamped his men in a good position; the approaches of which were defended nearly on all sides by natural obstacles difficult to be overcome, and he proposed strengthening them still more. According to Sir Edmund Lyons, Sir G. Brown confidently expected that Yenikalé would be in such a state of defence as would justify him in leaving it in charge of the Turks; so that the British and French troops might be at liberty to reduce Anapa and Soujak Kale. General d’Autemarre’s despatch is rich in information of great interest.

Among the establishments we have been able to preserve, is the military hospital. It is capable of containing from 100 to 150 sick. This hospital consisted of three buildings connected with each other; two of them were destroyed either by fire or by the explosion of the batteries. These buildings could have easily contained 350 or 400 sick. We found in the hospital thirty Russians, nearly all of them wounded at Sebastopol. In the neighbouring villages a great number had been billeted upon the inhabitants, and were visited by the army surgeons. One of these surgeons, a Saxon by birth, repaired to my head-quarters on the very evening of my arrival. He is employed, under the direction of the chief of the ambulances, to attend to the Russian wounded in our hands. This officer has assured me that General Wrangel had recently received orders from Prince Gortschakoff to prepare places for 10,000 to 15,000 wounded. The peninsula of Yenikalé offers considerable resources in forage and cattle: although I have no cavalry, I was able to capture 250 oxen and as many sheep, which will serve to feed the division during my sojourn here. I ordered the oxen to be distributed between the French and English squadrons. General Brown, who has been reinforced by fifty Hussars, purposes carrying off the flocks in the vicinity of the place.

The town of Kertch is very rich. I think advantageous markets for the army might be established there. The population is industrious and given to trade, and has nearly all remained. That of Yenikalé, on the contrary, followed the garrison. Forty families returned yesterday [the 28th May].

The number of troops intrusted with the defence of the peninsula may be estimated at 6,000 men. General Wrangel, who commanded them, had repeatedly asked for reinforcements. A letter from Prince Gortschakoff which has fallen into our hands informs the General, that not only will he not receive the reinforcements demanded, but that he must send in all his cavalry to Sebastopol. The sanitary condition of the division is excellent; I have very few sick. The soldiers are in excellent spirits, full of ardour and good humour.

Sir Edmund Lyons, writing on the 2nd June, corrects his previous estimate of the prizes of the expedition, and adds some compendious statements.

It now appears that more than a hundred guns have fallen into our hands in the different sea defences, many of them of heavy calibre, and remarkably well cast. Those which may not be required for the land defences which the Allied armies are now constructing, will be shipped and sent to England and France. It has been ascertained from the Custom House returns, that the enemy on evacuating Kertch, on the 24th ultimo, destroyed 4,166,000 pounds of corn, and 508,000 pounds of flour. This quantity, taken together with what has been destroyed by the allied squadrons in the Sea of Azoff, comprises nearly four months’ rations for an army of 100,000 men; and it seems that shortly before our arrival the enemy had commenced sending towards

Sebastopol daily convoys of about 1,500 waggons, each containing half a ton weight of grain or flour.

Commander McKillop, in describing his gallant action in the Snake, mentions that Mr. Sydney Wright, Assistant-Paymaster, Dr. Roche, and Mr. George Wilson, Senior Engineer, manned and worked a 12-pounder howitzer, sinking a gun-boat.

With regard to three of the operations in the Sea of Azoff we have details, supplied by Captain Lyons, of which a few extracts will gratify the reader.

On the morning of the 28th, we arrived off Arabat, and engaged the fort (mounting thirty guns) for an hour and a half, at the end of which time a shell blew up the enemy's magazine; the ships having been ordered to keep at shell range, and being well handled, had only one casualty, the chief engineer of the Medina being slightly wounded by a splinter. The French senior officer's ship received two shots in the hull, but fortunately no one was hurt. The enemy must have lost many men, from the precision with which the shells burst in his works, independently of that caused by the explosion.

On the evening of the 28th, the flotilla arrived off Genitchi, and joined the Swallow and Wrangler, which had been watching the Straits during the absence of the flotilla at Arabat. Seventy-three vessels had passed the Straits, "which are only fifty yards wide, and are commanded by the low cliffs on which the town is built, and were moored inside under the cliff." Capt. Lyons sent in a flag of truce, and demanded the surrender of the vessels, stores of corn, and Government property; promising to respect the town and private property. The Russians declined to comply with these terms, and drew up six field-pieces, 200 Cossacks, and a battalion of infantry. Three hours were given for a reconsideration of the refusal; and that time having elapsed, the steamers, placed as near as the depth of water would allow, bombarded the town at long range, so effectually that the boats, under Lieut. Mackenzie, got safely through the passage, set fire to the ships, and returned without accident.

The wind having shifted about two hours after the boats came off, some of the corn stores did not catch fire; conceiving the destruction of this corn, as well as of some more distant vessels in so favourable a position for supplying the Russian armies in the Crimea, to be of the utmost importance, I sent the boats again, commanded and officered as before, although I was aware that, from the enemy having had time to make preparations, it would be a hazardous enterprise. The ships accordingly resumed their fire upon the town, and the boats proceeded. Lieutenant Cecil W. Buckley, of this ship; Lieutenant Hugh T. Burgoyne, of the Swallow; and Mr. John Roberts, gunner, of the Ardent, volunteered to land alone and fire the stores; this offer I accepted, knowing the imminent risk there would be in landing a party in presence of such a superior force, and out of gun-shot of the ships. This very dangerous service they most gallantly performed, narrowly escaping the Cossacks, who all but cut them off from their boat; at the same time Lieut. Mackenzie pushed on and burned the remaining vessels, the enemy opening a fire from four field guns and musketry, placed almost within point-blank range of the boats. Everything being now effectually accomplished, the boats returned. Although several of them were struck by grape and case shot, most fortunately only one man was slightly wounded. Lieut. Mackenzie speaks in high terms of the coolness and excellent behaviour of all employed under his orders; and I trust I may be allowed to bring to your notice the conspicuous merit of Lieut. Mackenzie himself on this occasion, when more than ninety vessels, and also corn for the Russian army of the value of 100,000*l.* were destroyed, owing to his gallantry and ability, with so trifling a loss as one man slightly wounded.

THE FINAL VIENNA PROTOCOL.

A further paper containing the final protocol of the Vienna Conference, and the close of that negotiation, has now been laid before Parliament, and puts us in possession of the concluding scene of that ineffectual performance. Count Buol, having requested the Plenipotentiaries of the other Courts to assemble at his office on the 4th June, proceeded to state that as a last resource, Austria was prepared to make another proposition intended to settle by way of compromise the disputed point of the limitation of the naval forces of Russia in the Black Sea. It proposed, in the first place, that the great Powers should bind themselves to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman empire, and should bind themselves to consider every act or event of a nature to infringe upon it as a question of European interest. Secondly, that the Plenipotentiaries of Russia and Turkey should propose by common agreement to the Conference the equal amount of the effective naval forces to be kept up by them in the Black Sea, such amount not to exceed the number of Russian ships now afloat in that sea, and that this agreement should form an integral part of the General Treaty; the straits to remain closed, but each of the other Powers to be authorised by firman to station two frigates in the Black Sea, and in case of attack the Sultan to open the passage to all the naval forces of his allies. Such was the Austrian proposal. The Russian Envoys were willing to refer the question to the consideration of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, not being authorised, as they said, to assent to such a proposition without further instructions. The French and English Ministers merely repeated that their instructions were already exhausted, that they considered the Conference at an end, and that they saw no reason to enter upon the discussion of a proposition which embodied in another form the very same principle which Russia had formally rejected at the previous meetings of the Conference. Upon this the assembly broke up, and the negotiation was terminated.

MASSACRE OF ENGLISH SAILORS UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE.

On Monday, the Government received from Admiral Saunders Dundas a despatch to the following effect: "A short time ago Her Majesty's ship Cossack took and destroyed some coasting vessels near Hango,

and three persons—the captain of one of the vessels, his son, and another Finnish sailor—were taken prisoners. Admiral Dundas, anxious not unnecessarily to injure the trade of the country, directed the Cossack to bear up to Hango, in order to put on shore the persons who had been so captured, who had requested to be put on shore there, and four other persons, who had also been taken prisoners near St. Petersburg, and who had also requested that they might be put on shore there. The Cossack ventured to Hango in order to put these persons on shore, and at some distance from the place she anchored, and sent the cutter on shore with the seven prisoners and the ordinary boat's crew. A flag of truce was displayed for at least half an hour before she reached the jetty. Nobody was perceived but one person, who ran away at once. The boat arrived at the jetty, and landed the prisoners and their baggage. Every man remained in the boat. A body of Russians, who are reported to have amounted to from 300 to 400, came down to the jetty. Lieut. Geneste, the officer, waved his flag of truce, and explained why they came on shore. The Finnish captain also took the flag of truce, and tried to explain, both in Finnish and English, the reason why they came on shore. The officer in command of the Russians not only understood English, but spoke it. He said, 'They did not care in the least for a flag of truce, and they would show how the Russians would fight,' whereupon some 100 Russian soldiers immediately fired upon the officer and the prisoners on the jetty, and killed them all. They then fired into the boat till every man in the boat fell. The Russians rushed into the boat, and threw some of the bodies overboard, dragged one wounded man out, threw him on the jetty and bayoneted him, and left five bodies for dead in the boat. The cutter not returning later in the day, the gig was sent in, and it was ascertained from a distance that the cutter was moored to the jetty, and that there were some dead bodies in it. In the night a black man wounded with two balls through the arm and one through the shoulder, cut the fastening, and tried to scull the cutter from the jetty to the ship. In the meantime the Cossack standing in in order to ascertain what had become of the men in the cutter, sent in a boat, and brought off the single survivor, on whose evidence it is that the whole story rests."

The following is a list of the killed:—

L. Geneste, Lieutenant, age 25; R. T. Easton, Surgeon, age 39; Charles Sullivan, Master's Assistant, age 21; *Ed. Thompson, leading seaman, age 24; *Wm. Linn, Captain's Steward, age 32; John Lorton, Midshipman's Steward, age 22; Wm. H. Banks, Gun-room Steward, age 34; *Benj. Smith, A.B., age 23; *James Cornwall, ordinary, age 21; J. Gliddon, A.B., age 27; George Boyle, age 20, ordinary; Wm. Roskelley, age 20; ordinary; Thos. Stokes, age 23, ordinary; John Haughey, age 24, stoker; Francis George, age 20, ordinary; Owen Francis, age 24, A.B.

Liberated prisoners.—John Loonstronn, age 50; Theodore Lunstronn, boy about 11; A. F. Loonberg, age 21; and four other Russian prisoners, names unknown.

The man who escaped is a man of colour, named John Brown.

DIVERSIONS AT SEBASTOPOL.

The *Sémaphore de Marseilles* contains the following anecdote from Sebastopol: Some days ago a party of officers of the Russian garrison, wishing to avail themselves of a few hours' leisure, sent a band of music to a charming villa, surrounded by fine plantations, at the head of a small bay at the bottom of the harbour. From the French batteries, by the aid of a good spy-glass, we could see a party of elegantly dressed ladies and their partners gaily dancing on the lawn before the house. The natural politeness of the French towards the fair sex, and their innate love for the amusement in which the officers and their fair friends were engaged, made them loth to disturb them. Our artillerymen, however, thought that it would be just as well to remind them that a permission from the French for their *fête* superseded any authorisation from Count Osten Sacken, or from the Emperor Alexander himself; and in order to do so a shell was put in a mortar, and aimed with such precision that it fell just in front of the house. No other was fired, and for the remainder of the day the party enjoyed themselves to their full bent. In the evening, however, the champagne began to produce its natural effect, and the music kept up such *tapage* that no one could sleep. It was necessary to put an end to the disturbance, and another iron messenger was placed in a mortar, and careful aim being taken, was dropped just in the middle of the grass plot. The warning was enough, as the party fled right and left. No one was hurt, but as they saw clearly that we would no longer be annoyed by their noise, the party broke up.

THE CAPTURED "QUARRY WORK."

The Quarry Work, the capture of which is ascribed to our brave troops in General Pelissier's despatch of the 7th, is situated between what on the 6th inst. were our advanced works on Frenchman's Hill and the Redan. Its construction was commenced late in April, after our soldiers had driven the enemy from the large rifle pits in front of our right attack. The quarry of which advantage was taken in the construction of the work, and from which it is designated, is on the slope of the Redan Hill, below the line of abattis, which stretched across it, and about 300 yards from the most advanced trench of the zigzag in front of our second parallel. The slope of the land on which the Quarry Work rests dips down to the left, towards the left ravine, in front towards the shallow part of the middle ravine near its termination, where it divides Frenchman's and the Redan Hill from each other. The new work was placed behind the excavation, and had

* These were found dead in the cutter, and buried at sea.

a high and solid parapet. Around it the enemy had rifle pits connected with the quarry by trenches, and one of these, within fifty yards of our advanced trench, had its parapet of sand bags loopholed not only at the top, but within two feet from the level of the ground, by which means our working parties were for a time considerably annoyed. The rifle pits and the Quarry Work were connected by a covered way with the Redan. At the opening of the third bombardment our zigzags bearing towards the Redan had been so far advanced that it was necessary to crown the Quarry, as otherwise the enemy would have looked down into our trenches; but this operation again would not of itself have sufficed to ensure our progress, as the Quarry Work was in turn commanded by the Mamelon. Hence the necessity for taking both simultaneously. Four days before the opening of the third general bombardment, it was unknown in the camp whether the Quarry Work was armed, but it was evident that it had been prepared for at least ten heavy guns. Owing to the steep ascent of the hill, and its proximity to other extensive works in rear, not to speak of the rifle pits in its vicinity, its capture must have been a most arduous undertaking, as our lists of killed and wounded, moreover, too plainly tell.

The list of officers killed on this occasion has already been published. The following is a list of the officers wounded:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Capt. Adye, Royal Artill. | Capt. Ambrose, 3rd regt. |
| Lieut. Evans, 19th regt. | Lt.-Col. Campbell, 90th regt. |
| Lieut. and Adj. Paddfield, 20th regt. | Capt. Hunter, 47th regt. |
| Capt. Pennesfather, 30th regt. | Lieut. Boyd, 17th regt. |
| Capt. John Peel, 34th regt. | Lieut. Trent, 48th regt. |
| Capt. Westhead, 34th regt. | Lieut. Breodon, 3rd regt. |
| Lieut. Saunders, 34th regt. | Capt. A. Gordon |
| Major Villiers, 47th regt. | Lieut. Legge, 2nd batt. 1st Royals |
| Capt. Lowndes, 47th regt. | Major Mills, 7th regt. |
| Major Armstrong, 49th regt. | Capt. Turner, 7th regt. |
| Capt. Le Marchant, 49th regt. | Lieut. Jones, 7th regt. |
| Lieut. Young, 49th regt. | Lieut. J. F. Jones, 7th regt. |
| Lieut. Eustace, 49th regt. | Lieut. Waller, 7th regt. |
| Lieut. Dickson, 77th regt. | Capt. Dixon, 41st regt. |
| Capt. Maynard, 88th regt. | Lieut. Scott, 55th regt. |
| Lieut. Kenny, 88th regt. | Capt. Ingall, 62nd regt. |
| Lieut. Mackesy, 97th regt. | Capt. Gilby, 77th regt. |
| Lieut. Bellow, 2nd batt. 1st Royals | Lieut. Grier, 88th regt. |
| Lieut. Stewart, 2nd batt. | Lieut. Anderson, 96th regt. |
| Lieut. Irby, 47th regt. | Asst.-Engnr. E. J. R. Keen |

Mr. Rawlinson is going on very favourably.

The loss of the English on the 7th and 8th amounted to—Non-commissioned officers, drummers, and privates killed, 122; wounded, 510; missing, 15.

THE SAPPERS' CHURCH IN THE CRIMEA.

One among the many interesting objects in the British Camp before Sebastopol is the Sappers' Church, Right Attack, where the Rev. Mr. Taylor officiates. Its structure affords an excellent example of the adaptation of local circumstances to a particular object. It is built wholly of siege apparatus; but these are neither injured nor rendered unfit for their ultimate purpose; on the contrary, the materials are so arranged that they are only in store, as it were, ready for use as soon as required. The articles employed in the construction have been scaling ladders, gabions, fascines, timber ready cut and shaped for gun-platforms, a few planks, and some pieces of rope. Two scaling ladders locked into each other at the top, so as to give and derive mutual support, form, at certain intervals, the columns which separate the aisles from the body of the church, and bear the roof. At the end opposite to the entrance into this truly military church, a semicircular sweep is given to the gabion wall, and in the recess thus formed several sacks stuffed with straw are arranged, to form a reading desk and kneeling cushion for the preacher. Planks are laid on each side, from ladder to ladder, resting at a convenient height on the lower rails, and these benches are appropriated for the use of the weak and convalescents from the hospital; the other soldiers stand during the service.

When the Union Jack has been thrown over the primitive reading desk before mentioned, and the clergyman is in his usual robes, and the Engineers and Sappers are filling the space in their military costume, all seems so appropriate and in such harmony, that should a visitor be among the number of the congregation he soon ceases to feel the peculiarity of the place, and forgets, while engaged in the service, that he is not in one of the ordinary churches, with its stone walls and steeped roof, in his own mother country. Now and then the attention of the listener to the "mission of peace and goodwill among men" may be distracted for a moment by the heavy thunder of a gun, or the bursting of a shell; for the Sapper's church is on one side of the ravine leading to Careening Bay, and since the Russian redoubts and the French works have been established on the heights above, such sounds have become frequent enough on all days and at all hours of the week. But the Sappers themselves know that their yard is out of range, though only just out of it, and habit in this, as in other matters, produces its usual effect. The gun is discharged, the shot whizzes through the air, and the shell explodes; but the sounds, if heard, are not heeded, for the attention is otherwise occupied.

THE PORT OF TAGANROG.

The *Guide Maritime dans la Mer d'Azoff*, referred to on a previous occasion, gives the following details of Taganrog, against which the successful expedition has just taken place: "The greatest depth of the basin of Taganrog, situate very nearly at the bottom of the gulf of the Don, is ten, eleven, and sixteen feet from the channel of the Pereveloki, in a south-west direction to the extremity of the Petrouchina bank. The soundings given here are, as all those

of the Don, almost fictitious, as the landwinds reduce them considerably, and in some places down to zero. Every sort of vessel lies during that period embedded in the mud, and occasionally for a long time. The port owes its foundation to Peter the Great. Even in his time, the diminution of the waters of the Sea of Azoff was remarked, and the present site of Taganrog was chosen on the declivity of a promontory or cape, in the hope that a sufficient anchorage would always be found. The new port acquired at its commencement some commercial importance, but its disadvantages soon became apparent. The Don, which empties itself with impetuosity at the bottom of the gulf, drags down with it the sands which the south winds heap up on the coast, and it is owing to this that the water is so shallow near Taganrog, and in all its basin. It has been before observed that the sea water is so freshened by that of the Don at this spot as to be drinkable. In the commencement of the present century the port of Taganrog was frequented by such a number of foreign vessels as to induce the Government to second the movement. Taganrog had then a lazaretto belonging to it which dispensed vessels bound from that port from seven days' observation, which they performed in front of the Strait of Kertch. But the navigation becoming more extended, and the maritime establishment of Taganrog promising to be insufficient for the ever-increasing wants of entrepôt, custom-house and quarantine were formed at Kertch. Commercial transactions were thus divided between the two, and Taganrog saw each day a smaller number of vessels in its waters. The quarantine of Kertch allowed no vessels to pass on to Taganrog but those that were recognised as without suspicion. But what gave the last blow to Taganrog was the measure adopted, in 1833, by the Russian Government, which declared Kertch the only quarantine port in the Sea of Azoff, which from that time was closed to all merchant vessels excepting those in the coasting trade. Kertch, being at once on the Sea of Azoff to the north, and on the Black Sea to the east, became by that act the entrepôt and the port of discharge of those two seas. The colonial products of the northern coast, and even those of the Don, arrived by caravans, following the tongue of Arabat, up to the only privileged port. What only sustains now the commerce of Taganrog, are the transports of munitions of war and of provisions from the Caucasian provinces. A considerable number of vessels for that special service constantly traverse that sea, the waters of which are each day becoming more shallow, and which threaten soon to disappear altogether."

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

In addition to the immense reinforcements of cavalry, infantry, and artillery about to embark from England, the following regiments are under orders to proceed to the seat of war, immediately on being relieved by line and militia regiments, viz.: 13th Light Infantry from Gibraltar; 54th Foot, from ditto; 66th Foot, from ditto; 82nd Foot, from the Ionian Islands; 1st Battalion 91st Foot, from the Piræus; and 92nd Highlanders, from Gibraltar. The following regiments of infantry of the line are under orders to embark for foreign service, but it is believed they will proceed in the first instance to Gibraltar, Malta, or the Ionian Islands previous to joining the army in the East, viz.: 15th Foot (recently returned from Ceylon), from Cork; 31st King's Light Infantry, from Manchester; 56th Pompadours, from Dublin; 3rd Battalion 60th rifles (newly raised), from Dublin; 80th Foot, from Portsmouth; 94th Foot, 1,300 strong, recently returned from India; 96th Foot, from Dublin; 98th Foot, from Weedon; and 3rd Battalion (newly levied) of the Rifle Brigade, from Gosport.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Herald* alludes to the mission of Mr. Longworth, who is shortly to proceed to the Kouban, in Circassia, to rouse the energies of the mountaineers. Mr. Longworth is accompanied by Major Jordan, and a numerous suite of native chiefs.

It appears by private letters from Odessa of the 31st ult., that the occupation of the Sea of Azoff by the Allies was known there at that date, and had caused great anxiety, although none of the details had transpired. Many firms at Odessa, who have kept up commercial relations with the coast towns on the Sea of Azoff, saw in the event the ruin of their trade. At Rostow, near the mouth of the Don, the demand for oats for the Russian cavalry had greatly enhanced the price, and on the 13th May a contract was taken by several inhabitants of Rostow to supply 50,000 chetwerts (100 chetwerts equal 74·4 English quarters) for delivery in the Crimea, at the unusual rate of 9 silver roubles 50 copecks, to be paid in assignats.

In Kertch were found official letters from Sebastopol, containing accounts of the miserable condition of the place and the prevalence of disease.

It seems very evident that the Russians, not expecting an army, have been disturbed in the midst of very extensive and very formidable operations for the defence of Kertch, and for the blocking up of the entrance into the Sea of Azoff. At Yenikalé, the entrance to this sea, were found large quantities of copper wire sheathed in gutta percha, evidently forming part of a galvanic submarine battery, and which, on account of the narrow channel and shallow water, might have done our ships considerable mischief. Here also was a very strong battery, mounting sixteen guns, with shot and shell; the powder was all exploded last night. There was also a floating battery, mounting three guns.

The *Gazette* of Friday night contains a first report from the Patriotic Fund Commissioners, on their proceedings, and the result. They state that they have now lodged a sum exceeding a million sterling in the Bank of England. All classes, all parts of the country, the colonies, British subjects resident

abroad, natives of India, North American Indians, and natives of many foreign countries have contributed liberally. The number of applicants is considerable—each week adds from seventy to eighty widows as recipients of relief; not in most cases through recent bereavement, but through recent information of their bereavement. The total number now is 1,487 widows, 1,802 children, and 33 children who have lost both parents. Steps have been taken for the effectual education of the children.

A vessel is being fitted out at Portsmouth with a patent apparatus, by which a sufficiency of good wholesome water can be distilled in the course of twenty-four hours to supply from 30,000 to 40,000 men.

General de la Marmora, the younger, has died of cholera at Balaklava.

It is reported that Portugal is on the eve of entering into the Western Alliance, which will be ratified when His Majesty mounts the throne next September, and that the Portuguese Government will then contribute a contingent to the allied forces.

It is rumoured that the Allied troops have been recalled from Kertch, owing to the fall of Anapa, leaving a small force, with the Turkish portion of the expedition, to garrison the places intended to be occupied. It is thought a grand effort is about to be made against Sebastopol.

The following is a report from Prince Gortschakoff at Sebastopol, dated June 9: The cannonade continues against the Korniloff and No. 3 bastions. The enemy has demanded an armistice to bury his dead. His loss on the 7th exceeded 4,000 men.

A French paper states that the submarine infernal machines, which were discovered at Kertch, were intended to be conveyed to Kamiesch and Balaklava by vessels under neutral flags. One of these machines, which was tried at Kertch, blew up a large barge.

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA.

A Russian Imperial manifesto, regulating the succession to the throne, has been issued. In case of the death of the Emperor, the Grand Duke Constantine is to hold the regency, till the eldest son of the present Czar shall come of age, and, in case of the eldest son dying, until the second son shall attain his majority.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* contains an article upon the circular in which Count Walewski reviewed the late conferences and announced their close. Although the official writer controverts the count's position, his tone is, upon the whole, peaceable, and he gives it to be understood that further negotiations for peace may possibly ensue.

A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 5th, in the *News of Hamburg*, says: "The Synod of St. Petersburg has presented an address to the Emperor, earnestly praying him to show himself more disposed towards conferences of peace, in so far as the political interests of the State would permit. It is not known how the Emperor has received this address."

The Council of Administration of the Kingdom of Poland has again published the names of a fresh batch of Poles proscribed and their property confiscated to the use of the State. They are accused of having taken part in the troubles of 1848, and left Poland to assist the Hungarians and help to organise the democratic clubs.

Every movement of the French and British ships off Cronstadt is carefully noted down and telegraphed to the Emperor. It is said that a short time ago Admirals Dundas and Seymour had a very narrow escape of being made prisoners. They had landed on an uninhabited rock near Sweaborg to reconnoitre. This being perceived from the fortress, a steamer and a gunboat were sent out to capture them, and might have done so, if they had been more cleverly manoeuvred. As it was, however, they just came too late, and the British commanders had re-embarked.

Recent letters from Russia describe the effects of the war upon that country: First, it is becoming visible that the resources of Russia are beginning to feel the drain of war to a greater extent than we suppose, or than could be divined from anything published by Russian authority. It was generally believed that the Russian Government could command new legions of men to almost any amount; it is now known that men are beginning to fail, and that in this, only the second year of war, the extraordinary levies it has been compelled to make have so exhausted the supply that its practical limit will soon be reached. The fact that the military force in the neighbourhood of Riga and the provinces nearest the metropolis has been drawn from the most distant parts of the empire, even from Asia—that it is a strangely-mixed and half-trained body of men—seems to indicate that the regular army cannot spare a corps for the military defence of the coast, on which a formidable fleet is hovering with a full command of the sea. It is also known at Berlin with certainty that public feeling in St. Petersburg is becoming daily more depressed. At this moment, those who are in a position to know what is doing, and what can be done in the south, consider Sebastopol as good as lost, and admit that its possession by the Russian garrison is now a question of days—that any protracted defence is not to be expected. Possibly the effect of the late operations is better estimated in the capital than on the spot itself. The people, the bulk of the city population, is growing discontented, the diversion of the stream of commerce is producing privations, and there is a general rise in the price of all the necessities of life. The presence of the hostile fleet off Cronstadt has also its effect on the general feeling. Sebastopol was thought impregnable, yet its surrender or capture is anticipated, and fears are beginning to be felt as to what

may possibly happen with Cronstadt. Altogether there exists much anxiety, and confidence is shaken.

SPAIN.

A despatch from Madrid, the 13th inst., says: "Yesterday, the Cortes rejected a proposition tending to censure the Ministry. The Minister of Finance declared to-day to the Cortes that he would only have recourse to a forced loan as a last resource."

The following proposition of the Government had been unanimously adopted in its sittings of the 14th inst., by the Cortes:—"We demand a declaration from the Cortes that they are completely satisfied with the noble and loyal conduct of the French Government, which by its vigilance and aid (which have never been found wanting) has contributed to frustrate the machinations of the enemies of the liberties of Spain, and of the constitutional throne of Donna Isabella II."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The *Daily News* Paris correspondent says that the Emperor is indisposed, but the Paris correspondent of the *Independence* contradicts a report to that effect. The King of Portugal leaves Paris on Wednesday. It is said that the day officially fixed for Queen Victoria's visit to Paris is August 13.

It is stated from Paris, that on Tuesday, "after a consultation at the Tuileries between Dr. Locock, Dr. Dubois, and Dr. Connean, it was formally announced that the Empress was *enciente*."

The Germanic Diet has rejected the proposal from Prussia for the suppression of gaming, carried on in most of the German watering places.

At Baltimore, a marriage party from Washington, county Maryland, had been poisoned by eating custard in which arsenic had been placed. Some twenty-five of them were not expected to live, the bride among the number. The perpetrator of this diabolical act had not been discovered.

At Columbus, Ohio, on the 30th ult., a procession of German turners, peaceably passing through the streets, were attacked by a mob of rowdies, and several of the foreigners were stoned and beaten.

At Portland, a serious riot had occurred, in consequence of Neil Dow, the mayor of the city, having been charged with purchasing liquor to resell.

The Earl of Dalhousie, the Governor-General of India, has strongly recommended to the Government of India the railway line proposed by Lieut.-Col. Kennedy from Bombay to Baroda. His Excellency trusts that the Court will not hesitate to sanction the entire section from Bombay to Baroda.

The Canadian Parliament had adjourned without coming to any conclusion on the proposal for conferring lands on foreigners volunteering for the British Foreign Legion, on the termination of the period for which their services may be required. A further grant of 5,000*l.* had been voted for the Paris Exhibition.

A letter from Berlin states that, in addition to the Secretary of the English Consul at Cologne, five other persons have been arrested in Prussia for enrolling men for the English Foreign Legion, and that very severe proceedings have been commenced against them.

Addresses and festivals are still announced from various parts of the Roman States, in honour of the Pope's escape from destruction at St. Agnes, and the well-worn theme of the Immaculate Conception.

On the 12th, an attempt was made to assassinate Cardinal Antonelli at Rome. The assassin missed his aim, and was arrested.

The Governor-General of Canada has refused to sanction the Maine Law Liquor Bill, until he has the opinion of the authorities in Downing-street.

The new southern political organisation in the United States has been commenced, based upon constitutional principles, designed to effect a union of the people of the south upon simple platform opposition to abolitionism.

The cholera is raging as an epidemic in New Orleans.

Monsignor Fransoni, Archbishop of Turin, has fulminated from Lyons a violent notification against the law for the reduction of monastic institutions in the Sardinian states. It is dated on the 6th instant. He declares it to come under the most tremendous censures levelled by the Council of Trent at sacrilegious theft; and hints that purchasers, as in the case of stolen goods, will be under the indispensable obligation of restitution. He tells the occupiers that they must not cede the property. Nevertheless, he thinks that they may accept the pensions allotted to them. He affirms that the sect now in power evidently intend to devour as much of the Church as they can; and that, unless the Lord compassionately interferes for their succour, the clergy will all be reduced to mendicancy; and hence he exhorts all pious people to put every shoulder to the wheel to ward off the fatal injuries by which they are threatened.

ROYAL LITERARY FUND SOCIETY.

A general meeting of the members of this society was held at Willis's-rooms, King-street, St. James's, on Saturday, to take into consideration the report of the special committee appointed to inquire into the propriety of applying for a new charter, and extending the scope and objects of the corporation. The chair was taken by Mr. B. B. Cabell, M.P., who, in introducing the business, read a letter from the Marquis of Lansdowne, the President of the Fund (who was unable to be present from having to attend a Cabinet Council), expressing doubts as to the policy of the proposed changes in the constitution of the society.

Mr. CHARLES DICKENS, as the chairman of the special committee, presented the report, which recommended that henceforth the administrative body of the society should be enabled to grant revocable an-

nities to distressed men of letters and scientific writers, to the extent of a certain limited proportion of the income derivable from the society's real property or vested funds; and also that they should have the power of granting relief by way of loan. The report also embraced a plan for remodelling the powers and functions of the council; and comprised a project for superadding to the present objects of the society, in conformity with the alleged intentions of its founders, the holding of evening meetings and *conversazioni* in the rooms of the institution, and the establishment of a library for purposes of reference. It was also designed that this offshoot of the institution should hereafter be further developed, if the experiment met with adequate encouragement, into "a hall or college for the honour of literature and the service of literary men." To effect these purposes, according to the opinion of counsel (Mr. Serjeant Merewether), a new charter was necessary. Mr. DICKENS moved that the report be adopted. Mr. FORSTER seconded the motion.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, M.P., proposed, as an amendment,

That this meeting acknowledges with gratitude the labours of the special committee appointed to consider and report upon the question of a new charter for the Literary Fund, and recognises the value of some of their suggestions as subjects for future deliberation; but, considering the proposals therein contained to involve an entire alteration of the nature and intentions of the society, and that its means are inadequate to the attainment of those purposes, this meeting is not prepared to recommend the application for a new charter to carry them into effect.

The honourable gentleman, in supporting his amendment, pointed to the fact that their excellent president, in the letter that had been just read to them, had signified his intention, if the proposed changes were persisted in, to resign his office. The changes in question were not calculated to effect the objects of their advocates, but, even if they were likely to be successful, that society had not the requisite means for attaining them. The first change recommended—viz., that, instead of granting assistance to authors when in circumstances of distress in sums sufficient to enable them to start afresh in their career and depend upon their own exertions for their future support, they should spread the aid they now gave at one time over a period of years in the shape of annuities, was a proposition of very doubtful wisdom, and it was even questionable whether the present mode was not adapted to afford more serviceable relief to the recipient than the one suggested as a substitute; but, be that as it might, no alteration in the charter was demanded to enable them to vary their practice in this respect, should a modification be thought advisable. Then, as to the granting of pecuniary loans, there would be the greatest difficulty in carrying out such a principle. It was obvious that in many cases these so-called loans would degenerate into mere gifts, without the grace appertaining to such a form of relief. (Hear.) Next, any attempt to combine a club or literary sodality with that fund, judging from the experience of similar enterprises, was likely to be attended with signal failure. Besides, there was the Athenæum Club already in existence. If, however, a Literary Club were really needful, let it be set up on an independent basis, and then the two bodies might usefully do their work in their separate spheres. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. POLLOCK, in seconding the amendment, cited the preamble of the original charter, obtained in 1818, declaring that the objects of the fund were to "protect and relieve persons of genius and learning, or their families, who shall be in want," and contended that they would not be justified in now introducing organic changes into their constitution.

Mr. DILKE supported the adoption of the report, on the ground that the present practice of the society sanctioned the principle of revocable annuities, which only required to be extended. With regard to loans, that system had worked well in other institutions analogous in their nature, and it would involve no greater amount of publicity than was incidental to the formalities already enforced when distressed authors applied for gratuities. It was said that the claims of many deserving applicants were now unsatisfied, and therefore they could not afford the requisite means for establishing a central re-union of the members; but how could this be so, when they actually possessed a reserve fund of 30,000*l.*, together with other property worth 200*l.* a year, while they likewise expended 500*l.* annually in distributing a sum of 1,500*l.*? Could there be a stronger proof of the need of some change than the fact that the number of their annual subscribers—upon whom, after all, they must chiefly rely—had, since 1802, dwindled down from 394 to 104?

Lord STANLEY was willing to leave the matter of annuities and loans in the hands of the executive. As to any delicacy of feeling in regard to the acceptance of gratuities instead of loans, by distressed authors, such persons had it now in their power to convert any relief they received in the former shape into a loan, by subsequently making a donation to the society, or otherwise reimbursing it.

Mr. C. DICKENS regarded the complaint of the lamentable deficiency of their funds, after the astounding and unanswered statement made by Mr. Dilke of their financial resources, as about the most bitterly ironical thing which the human mind could conceive of that society. Mr. Milnes had approached the question of loans entirely in the character of a lender; but let him approach it in the character of a borrower, and put it to them as a matter of feeling, whether they could not imagine the case of a high-spirited literary man who would come to them not for a gift, but for a loan. The noble lord (Stanley) said, "Oh! he can have a loan, and can pay it back again." But how? "By subscribing to the institution." But was there a man in that room who, after being relieved with—say,

100*l.*, would have the audacity to put himself down as a donor of 100*l.* to the fund? Why, such an idea argued an amount of misconception of the honour and dignity of the literary profession which it was amazing to hear from such lips. Then they were told that there was the Athenæum Club already open to them. So also was that respectable establishment the London Tavern—a laugh)—which was about as accessible to literary men and pretty much as expensive as the Athenæum. All that the report suggested was, that an experiment on a limited scale, and at a very small additional cost, should be tried in the present rooms of the society; and then, if unfortunately, they should fall in exciting among the profession an increased interest in the objects of the institution, and so did not gain an accession of subscribers, no possible harm would have been done, and the project need not be carried any further. Mr. Milnes had asked the advocates of this scheme why they did not found such a society as they wanted; but they might just as reasonably ask him, and the other conductors of that institution, why this was not done by them, especially as they had their 30,000*l.* of reserved fund, and their 200*l.* a-year with which to fulfil those original intentions of the founders that they now altogether blinked. The alterations proposed in the report for assisting their class were plain and simple, and were suggested by literary men with a feeling for their art, who desired to rouse up that slumbering society and make it do more for literature than it ever had done or was likely to do, if left alone. They all knew that being awakened under any circumstances or at any time was extremely disagreeable—they all objected to it every day of their lives—but beyond all question the Literary Fund had overslept itself. It ought now to be knocked up, and, please God, they must get out of bed some way or another. (Laughter.)

Sir J. FORBES was in favour of extending the field of the society's operations, but regarded the report as somewhat indefinite in its recommendations.

The Bishop of OXFORD considered the report as rather enigmatical, and even after the forcible speech of Mr. Dickens, must say that his doubts of the wisdom of its main proposition was only the more confirmed. Mr. Dickens had good humouredly told them that their executive was asleep; but, to carry out the figure, they must take care that that gentleman and his friends did not wake them up so suddenly as to make them jump out of the window and break their necks, when they might think they were only stepping out of their beds on to the floor. (Laughter.) With respect to the grant of loans or of revocable annuities, no alteration in the charter was really requisite to authorise the managers of the fund to modify its distribution in the manner recommended.

Sir E. B. LYTON thought the recommendations of the report had been somewhat misrepresented, or at least misunderstood. This was obvious from the ridicule which, in his eloquent speech, the Lord Bishop had cast on the proposition to offer some degree of accommodation to distressed hard-working literary men, whom his lordship appeared to think could only be brought together by such banquets and entertainments as were given to those who held high situations in the State or in Parliament. What the special committee wished was to raise the literary man from a mendicant attitude and put a stop to the continual obtrusion of the begging-box. (Hear, hear.) Then, as to the establishment of a hall in which to hold their social gatherings, many a plain, modest man of letters might have no idea, nor even the means, of going to the Athenæum, but still might wish to meet in friendly converse with his fellows; and it was desirable that the members of that institution should have a rallying point where they could cordially shake hands to-day with the man whom they had benefited by stealth the day before. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FORSTER appealed to the managing committee to give some assurance that they would favourably entertain the recommendations of the report as to loans and annuities.

The CHAIRMAN could assure the meeting that the governing body had no other desire but to promote the comfort and well-being of the literary profession, and that they would give the suggestions that had been made their best and most serious consideration. (Hear.)

The question was then put to the vote, when the amendment was declared to be carried, and the proceedings terminated.

COLONEL RAWLINSON ON ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.

The lecture-room of the Royal Institution was never more crowded than on Friday evening, the last lecture evening of the season, on which occasion Prince Albert honoured the meeting with his presence, to hear Colonel Rawlinson describe some of the results of his recent excavations in Assyria. Colonel Rawlinson stated that he had been pursuing his investigations according to instructions from the British Museum, for three years, extending the field of operations opened by Mr. Layard over a tract of nearly two thousand miles of a country, along the Euphrates and Tigris to the Persian Gulf. The excavations made at different points of this extended area have brought to light relics of the most interesting kind, far surpassing in antiquity the Nineveh marbles of Mr. Layard, and comprising a number of tablets and cylinders with written inscriptions which tend to throw much light on several doubtful portions of ancient history. The oldest relic was an earthenware slab, or brick, from a temple built 2,000 years before the Christian era, impressed with the name of the king who reigned in Chaldea at that time. Colonel Rawlinson explained that the kings of Chaldea and Assyria exercised the exclusive right of having their names impressed on the bricks

used in building, and that by this means, aided by the inscriptions found in the temples, he was enabled to ascertain with considerable accuracy the periods at which the temples had been built. Some stone carvings, excavated from buildings the dates of which were thus ascertained to belong to a period at least 800 years before the birth of Christ, are of a character far superior to any of those of more recent date excavated by Mr. Layard, especially the figure of animals in hunting scenes. In addition to the carvings on flat slabs, there were found several small models of animals, some of which were exhibited on the lecture table, which were executed with great skill, and they are in as perfect a state of preservation as if they had been recently done. Among the most interesting records of those ancient times are the tablets and cylinders, with written inscriptions on their surfaces, most of which Colonel Rawlinson has been enabled to decipher. A tablet extracted from one of the temples built by Nebuchadnezzar was shown, the inscription on which was in very small characters, and was translated. After stating the circumstances under which the temple was built, and lauding the works and greatness of the King, the tablet contained some passages which Colonel Rawlinson thinks allude to the insanity of Nebuchadnezzar, and his recovery; but that part has not yet been clearly deciphered. Among other curious relics shown to the company were two earthenware cylinders, taken from a temple a few miles from the site of ancient Babylon, which had been supposed to be the remains of the Tower of Babel, and a view of which is given in pictorial Bibles. A French commission had been sent to examine the lofty mound, and excavations were made in it without any result; but after the French commissioners had abandoned the enterprise, it was resumed by Colonel Rawlinson, who succeeded in extracting the cylinders, from the inscriptions on which it appeared that it was a temple to the seven spheres, which had been built about 400 years before Nebuchadnezzar's reign, and restored by that King. Col. Rawlinson said that the inscriptions contained on the tablets he had excavated tended to reconcile the discrepancy between the Greek historians and the Bible history respecting Belshazzar. The name of Belshazzar is not mentioned by the Greek historians, the Babylonian king conquered by Syrus being called by them Nabonadus; but it appears from some of the excavated inscriptions that Belshazzar was the eldest son of Nabonadus, and that he most probably shared the throne with his father. One of the remarkable relics shown by Col. Rawlinson was a large piece of polished ivory, engraved with mathematical symbols, so small as to require a powerful lens to distinguish them, and it is conjectured that the engraver must have been assisted by a lens in working on so microscopic a scale. The experience gained by Colonel Rawlinson during his researches enabled him to ascertain the exact positions in which the cylinders having the inscriptions were deposited in the temples, and the Arabs who worked under him attributed this power to necromancy, and the needle compass he consulted was viewed by them as a talisman, so that when the colonel arrived at Bagdad he was besieged by applicants for information where lost property was to be found.

HENRY VINCENT'S LECTURES.

Mr. Vincent has addressed three large meetings, upon the War and our Statesmen, at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Forgeson, — and for the past fortnight has lectured to very large audiences in South Wales. At Merthyr Tydvil, the large hall was filled by all classes of the people, to hear a discourse on the War, and an address to our "Young Men and Women." He is to revisit the town, to address an out-door meeting of the whole population, and to deliver his six lectures on the Commonwealth. At Swansea, he has delivered two addresses to enthusiastic meetings, and at Aberdare, in two of the chapels. He has also lectured at Blaenau, and Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire.

In Wales, as elsewhere, liberal principles are spreading; and many of the influential classes who, eighteen years ago, were terrified at the mildest forms of radicalism, are now Henry Vincent's most cordial friends, and wonder at their former hostility to the rights of the people. The war is generally popular, from the belief that the curbing of Russia will be favourable to the ultimate freedom of Europe; but the statesmen are believed to be insincere, if not corrupt, and decidedly not in earnest, either for peace or war—more anxious for the safety of corrupt thrones, than for the deliverance of the oppressed peoples.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BILL.

The bill brought from the Lords on the 15th inst. appoints the Earl of Burlington, the Bishop of Chester, Lord Montagu, Mr. S. H. Walpole, Sir E. H. Alderson, Mr. J. G. Shaw Lefevre, and Mr. J. Cowling Commissioners for the purposes of this act—their powers to endure till the 1st of January, 1858, or, if continued by Her Majesty, to the 1st of January, 1859, and no longer. The Commissioners are empowered to require the production of documents from the officers of the University. On the 6th of November next, the functions of the *Caput Senatûs* will cease, and on the following day is to be elected a "Council of the Senate," to consist of the chancellor, the vice-chancellor, four heads of colleges, four professors of the University, and eight members of the Senate. The heads of colleges are to be elected from among themselves, and the professors by the professors also. The vice-chancellor is authorised before the 10th October next to make regulations for the election of the council and the filling up of vacancies. The council is to meet on the day of election (the 7th of November next) for the de-

spatch of business, presided over by the chancellor or vice-chancellor, five members to be the quorum. The vice-chancellor is empowered to license members of the Senate to open residences for the reception of students who will be admitted to all the privileges of the University without being *ex necessitate* entered as members of any college. These parties are to be called "licensed masters," and their residences "private halls." The University is specially empowered to make statutes for the regulation of these halls before the 1st day of Michaelmas Term 1856. If the University omit to frame statutes, &c., it will be incumbent on the Commissioners to do so. Colleges may amend statutes with respect to eligibility to headships and fellowships, and power is given to the University to alter trusts. Statutes framed by the Commissioners, and objected to by two-thirds of the governing body of the college or schools to which the same relate, are to be laid before Parliament, and all ordinances and regulations made by the governing bodies of colleges, are to be laid before the Queen in Council. Declarations and oaths on matriculating and taking degrees are abolished, as also the stamp duties on matriculations and degrees.

Miscellaneous News.

Henry Griffiths, the boy of eleven, who was apprehended at the Baptist chapel in the Regent's Park for picking pockets, has been convicted at the Middlesex Sessions of four offences. The Assistant-Judge sentenced him to two years' hard labour, with a view to his admission into the Reformatory Institution at Redhill.

On Friday afternoon, a coal train had been shunting some waggons at the Barrow-on-Soar railway station, about three miles south of Loughborough, on the Midland Railway, when another coal train came up and ran into it. The guard's break of the first train was shattered to pieces, the engine of the second was thrown off the line, and the stoker, who is said to have been in the act of putting coals on at the time, was crushed to death almost instantly. The engine-driver jumped off and escaped unhurt. It is said that the signals were in a proper state, but had not been observed by the driver, who was taken into custody.

Mr. George Curzon, heir-presumptive to the barony of Scarsdale, and cousin of the Earl Howe, met with an accident in Hyde-park on Saturday, which has terminated fatally. The unfortunate deceased was riding in Hyde-park on Saturday evening, just before six o'clock, and when about midway between Ap-ley-house and Stanhope-gate, in endeavouring to pass by two carriages, his horse became restive, and threw him on the edge of the footway. Mr. Curzon fell on his head, which, it is believed, from the very serious injuries he received, must have come in contact with the kerbstone. He was immediately conveyed to St. George's Hospital, and expired at a quarter-past seven A.M. The Earl Howe had been by the bedside of his cousin during the greater part of the night.

On Saturday morning, about eight o'clock, while the workmen, in great number, at present engaged in re-building the premises of Messrs. Munt and Wood, straw bonnet makers, of No. 90, Wood-street, Cheapside, were at breakfast, a dreadful and fatal occurrence took place, through the newly-placed coping on the sixth and top floor falling into the street. Happily, no one was passing at the time; but a poor unfortunate carman, employed by Mr. Lucas, the builder, who was with his horse and cart opposite the warehouses, was instantly felled to the ground and killed, one of the largest pieces of stone having fallen on him.

John Eliot Hadlow, *alias* the Rev. Mr. Hadlow, *alias* the Rev. Mr. Norman, *alias* the Rev. Mr. Magie, an elderly little man, dressed in a very shabby suit of black, with a dirty white neckcloth, and a superfluity of bushy grey whiskers, and a bald head, was charged with obtaining a half-crown from Mr. James Wood (a Scripture-reader and distributor of the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's charities) under false and fraudulent pretences. Mr. Wood stated that Mr. Spurgeon had received a letter from the prisoner, which was of considerable length, setting forth his extreme poverty and asking for relief. He was deputed to make inquiries about the prisoner. At the second interview witness took with him Mr. Horsford, the Mendicity Society's officer, who at once recognised him as an old offender, and took him into custody. The prisoner was remanded.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

On Thursday, the Queen held a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace. On Friday, the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, with the Princesses Adelaide and Feodore of Hohenlohe, took leave of the Queen. In the evening, the Queen went to the Olympic Theatre. On Saturday afternoon, the Queen visited Aldershot, returning in the evening.

Prince Albert and the Princess, on Friday, made an unannounced visit to Cremorne-gardens, accompanied by an equerry and the royal tutor. The Princess tried their skill with the air guns (the Prince of Wales killing his hare, and beating his Royal brother, who missed his bird). Upon taking his leave, His Royal Highness declared his intention to give the Princess an opportunity of witnessing the various evening performances usually presented.

The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert has been advised by his medical attendant to abstain from all public business for a time in order to recruit his health, for which purpose he is now on a tour in Scotland.

A circular from the War Department invites gentlemen who intend to offer themselves as candidates

for cadetships in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, and Provisional Commissions in the Royal Artillery, to notify their intention, with as little delay as possible, to the Secretary of State for the War Department.

A correspondent of the *Dublin Evening Post* assures us that six, now nearly the entire of the "Irish Independent Opposition" party, are about to give up their seats in Parliament; and that one of the most prominent members of the party proposes shortly to emigrate to Australia.

Mr. Horace Mann has been appointed Registrar of the New Examination department for the civil service.

Mr. Charles Cochrane, whose name has been repeatedly before the public in connexion with projects for aiding and employing the poor (soup kitchens, the street-orderly system, &c.) and who a few years since contested the representation of Westminster, died on Wednesday last, at his residence in Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road. For some time past he used to set a most praiseworthy example in his endeavours to induce some of the poorest classes to attend on Sundays to their religious duties; and it was his custom to invite the poor, and even the ragged of the courts and alleys of the New-cut and its neighbourhood, to meet him at a district school-room, from which place he would accompany them to church.

From what is given as—"a correct statement of the re-organisation of the several civil departments under the Minister of War"—it appears, that in future the Clerk of the Ordnance will have a salary of 2,000*l.* per annum. He will be chief of the civil staff, and executive officer of the Minister of War. There will be an Inspector-General of Fortifications, at 1,500*l.* per annum; two Deputy-Inspectors-General, at 650*l.* each; and two Assistant Deputy-Inspectors-General at 500*l.* The Director-General of Artillery, with 1,000*l.* a-year, will have complete control over the artillery matériel. The Naval Director of Artillery will have 500*l.* per annum. Besides the Clerk of the Ordnance, the four principal civil officers will be the Directors-General of stores, of contracts, of army clothing, and of accounts. All these are new offices. The salary of the Director-General of Stores is fixed at 1,000*l.* per annum. The Director-General of Contracts will have 1,500*l.* The Army Clothing Department will be managed by a Director-General at 1,000*l.*, and an Assistant Director-General at 800*l.* per annum. The Accountant-General will have 1,200*l.* a year. Henry Smith, Esq., chief clerk in the Cash Account office of the Ordnance, has been appointed to fill the office. The military office at Woolwich will comprise—the Superintendent of Royal Gun Factories, at 500*l.* a year; the Superintendent of Royal Carriage Factories, at 500*l.*; the Superintendent of the Royal Laboratories, at 500*l.*; the Superintendent of the Royal Factory of Small Arms, at 500*l.*; and the Superintendent of the Royal Factory of Gunpowder, at 500*l.* per annum.

Literature.

Letters of John Calvin. Compiled from the Original Manuscripts, and Edited with Historical Notes, by Dr. JULES BONNET. Translated from the Latin and French Languages, by DAVID CONSTABLE. Vol. I. Edinburgh: T. Constable and Co.

THOSE who have studied the character of Calvin in so much of his correspondence as has been hitherto published, will receive with gratitude and delight a new collection of his letters, containing at least six hundred of these precious documents, of which considerably more than half, and the more important, are now for the first time given to the world. It is in these daily outpourings of his soul to elect friends, not only on public events, but also on the incidents of his private life, that we learn what Calvin really was;—that he ceases to be as the mummy of traditional story, or the cold statue of the "Institutes," and is felt to be a living man;—a man who has loved and rejoiced, wept and laughed, joked and gossiped, suffered and toiled, as we do ourselves;—in whom there was a deep and tender nature, hidden beneath the severe aspect which unbending conscientiousness, rigorous logicalness, and unflinching fearlessness, combined to give to his character as a Reformer and Theologian. One often thinks of Calvin as the sedate and scholarly young ecclesiastic, at the court of the Duchess of Ferrara,—as the pale, severe student, boldly attacking the great problems of theology, and, confident in the firm truth of his first principles, calmly and unhesitatingly following the course of just reasoning thence to the most awful conclusions,—or, as the stern Reformer, who pursues unrelentingly the heretic Servetus, till the council relieves his hands, by condemning the ribald unbeliever to be burnt alive. But, who ever thinks of Calvin dreamily meditating a projected marriage, and writing to a grave theological friend about his love—"a maiden who brings a dowry in herself"—until he feels compelled to add, that he hopes he has not "made himself seem foolish?" Who thinks of him retiring to a solitary chamber with Melancthon, from one of the scenes of their mutual trials and triumphs, holding holy and strengthening intercourse with each other, until Melancthon, the elder, falls into the arms of the younger Calvin, affectionately leans his head on that friendly and undaunted bosom, and cries, "Oh, that I

might die here?" Who thinks of him on his deathbed writing to his tried friend Farel—"I do not think that two friends have ever lived together in the common relations of life, in so close a friendship as we have enjoyed in our ministry;" and again: "Farewell, best and dearest brother! since it is the Lord's will that you survive me, be mindful of our friendship." How little is this the Calvin conceived of, either by those who assume or those who denounce his name! Yet *this* is the man who looks out upon us and speaks cordially to us, in these remarkable letters. "He had the genius to be loved," and he shall have "the justice to be honoured" amongst all men.

Much has recently been done for the memory of Calvin, especially by the investigations and noble labours of Dr. Henry, his latest biographer. But much yet remains to be done; and the materials are in these letters. The limits which it is necessary for us to observe will not permit satisfactory quotation from this voluminous correspondence; nor even the indication of the features of that vivid and authentic portrait which is here unconsciously drawn by Calvin's own hand. Still less can we exhibit the relations of the contents of many of these documents to the events, and especially to the current accounts of the events, of the Reformer's agitated times. The light they throw on the general history of the Reform movement (additionally to that delineation of Calvin himself, for which they are primarily valuable), gives to them a value for the historian, which is not to be easily estimated or soon exhausted. But ours must be the humble task of simply describing the volume before us.

We are told by Beza, that Calvin, only a few days before his death, requested that a selection of letters might be made by some of his friends from the correspondence he had carried on with the most eminent persons of Europe, and be presented to the Reformed Churches, in token of the affection of their founder. The duty was not easily to be performed. The character of public events, and the scrupulousness of friends, prevented more than a very imperfect fulfilment of his wish. M. Jules Bonnet truly says, that "the friends of Calvin, notwithstanding all difficulties, did not shrink from the performance of their duty. Deeply impressed with the importance of the mission entrusted to them, they applied themselves to their task with religious fidelity." Men whose names have been almost forgotten collected original autograph letters, and made numerous copies of others, which, after twenty years of such researches and labours as the duty involved, were published under Beza's superintendence, in 1575, as the Latin correspondence of Calvin. Since then nothing has been added, in the printed editions of Calvin's Works, to the collection thus made. Those letters have been the sources, the only sources, additional to the "Life" by Beza, whence biographers and historians have drawn their information about the personal history, and relations to great men and public events, of the Genevan Reformer. Meanwhile, many unpublished documents have been preserved in the Libraries of Geneva, Zurich, Gotha, and Paris; and as M. Bonnet says, "it was reserved for the present age to rescue these from unmerited oblivion, and to open up for history a mine hitherto unexplored." The interesting and most conscientious "Life," written by Dr. Paul Henry, of Berlin, between the years 1835 and '42, made a new epoch in the literature of the life and times of Calvin, and was greatly enriched from some portions of the previously unpublished correspondence; and, subsequently, other important works, which it would not be useful here merely to name, have contributed their researches, and some appendixes of extracts, to the general result. But the editor of the present volume is justified entirely in saying: "We may legitimately claim for ourselves the privilege of offering to the public, for the first time, a general and authentic collection of Calvin's correspondence, the greater part of which has, up to the present time, been buried in the dust of libraries and altogether unpublished." This collection is the result of five years' study and research among the archives of France, Switzerland, Germany, and England. The letters commence with Calvin's youth, and extend to his very death-bed. In truest truth, "nothing can exceed the interest of this correspondence, in which an epoch and a life of the most absorbing interest are reflected in a series of documents equally varied and genuine; and in which the familiar effusions of friendship are mingled with the more serious questions of theology, and with the heroic breathings of faith." "Invested in virtue of his surpassing genius," again says the editor, "with an almost universal apostolate, he wielded an influence as varied and as plastic as his activity. He exhorts with the same authority the humble minister of the Gospel and the powerful monarchs of England, Sweden, and Poland. He holds communion with Luther and Melancthon, animates Knox, encourages Coligny, Condé, Jeanne d'Albret, and the Duchess of Ferrara; while in his familiar letters to Farel, Viret, and Beza, he pours out the overflowings of

a heart filled with the deepest and most acute susceptibility." The historical importance of these letters is not less than their personal interest. Calvin's influence, the religious opinion and life of England and Scotland, is more significant than either his professed followers or his bitter enemies have understood. Whether for good or for evil—though, we believe, for undeniable and unestimated good—this man has left the stamp of his mind more deeply and broadly on the religion of all Christendom, than any man since Paul. And yet he is misunderstood by admirers, as well as vilified by detractors; and the religious system which now chiefly popularly bears his name, has neither the cast and proportion of his own mind, nor breathes the spirit by which he was animated. It is beyond calculation, again, to the history of Protestantism, that these letters are made public and accessible; and Theology, too, profits by the light that breaks from them on all the great questions which, in the days of the Reform, agitated all minds; and which, in these days, though they appear in modified forms, still press into the arena of controversy, and may be considered and discussed with infinite advantage, in the light thus poured on their historical connexions and relations. In many of these letters, and especially the French letters now first made known to us, there are passages full of weighty thought, wise counsels, and deep spiritual feeling, which are amongst quite the most remarkable of the remains of Calvin—equally for their noble and stately eloquence, and for their revelation of the grave and tender, truth-loving and fearless, soul of the writer.

As the work progresses—and as yet we have but one volume out of four—we shall return to it, and quote much of its contents.

BRIEF NOTICES OF RECENT BIBLICAL WORKS.

No. I.

The Messiah, as predicted in the Pentateuch and Psalms: being a New Translation and Critical Exposition of these ancient oracles. By J. R. WOLFE. London: Griffin and Co.—[A book marked by both learning and good sense; but not making any important addition to the literature of the subject. It manifests acquaintance with much of the later German critical commentary; and still more with Rabbinical commentary—extracts from which frequently occur, and are both given in the original for the sake of the scholar, and usefully translated for the less learned reader.]—*An Exposition of the Fourteenth Chapter of Hosea; or, Genuine Repentance and its Effects*. By Rev. MOSES MARCOLOVITZ, B.A. London: Longman and Co.—[Nine sermons, delivered in the parish church of Wynbury; and printed in aid of the erection of parochial schools. They are not critical in the treatment of the text they expound; but furnish a fair practical exposition and application of the passage.]—*The Disciple whom Jesus loved; being Chapters from the History of John the Evangelist*. By JAS. MACFARLANE, D.D., of Duddingstone. Edinburgh: Paton and Co.—[A volume of superior sermons; with interesting preliminary sketch: containing much that is solid in thought, sweet in sentiment, and elegant in expression. Its faults are, that it is too stiffly rhetorical and too diffuse. It will be seen by any ministerial critic, that a good deal more thinking and careful critical study than appears on the surface have been given to the preparation of the work.]—*A Popular Harmony of the Bible*: Historically and Chronologically arranged. By H. M. WHEELER. London: Longman and Co.—[The Old Testament arrangement is based on Townsend; the New on Grasswell. The text is not given, but the subjects and full references, with dates and occasional explanatory remarks. It is a very good book for Parents and Teachers at about the middle stage of education as it ordinarily ranges;—the Pupils must "look up" the history itself in the Bible, by aid of the tabular arrangement here given.]—*Our Friends in Heaven; or, The Mutual Recognition of the Redeemed in Glory demonstrated*. By Rev. J. M. KILLEN, M.A., Comber. Edinburgh: J. Shepherd.—[This work contains—1. Evidence and argument in favour of "mutual recognition in heaven," carefully drawn from Scripture and from Reason, and presented in a clear and forcible way: 2. A statement of Objections, and Replies thereto,—the former stated fairly, the latter generally good and sufficient: 3. An exhibition of the Practical Influence of the Doctrine defended, now and hereafter. There is nothing novel and profound in the work; and the style is stilted; but it may be considered a good brief on the pro side of the "mutual recognition" controversy. To us, the controversy seems an absurd one. We have heard a story of Matthew Wilks, which contains the whole matter in a nutshell. His wife one day asked him seriously, "Do you think, my dear, we shall know each other when we get to heaven?" Old Matthew drawlingly replied: "La, Bet!—do you think—we shall be—greater fools then—than we are now?"]—*Bible Teaching; or, Remarks on Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus*. With Recommendatory Preface, by the Rev. W. B. MACKENZIE, M.A. London: J. A. Shaw.—[A new edition of an unpretending work, in which the meaning of the text of the first three books of the Pentateuch is expounded; and generally correctly, as well as interestingly and practically. The language is purposely plain and familiar for unlearned readers. The authors were three excellent sisters. They are deceased.

A survivor—the widow of the late Rev. J. H. Evans—presents this book to the public.]—*Theological Tracts, Selected and Original*. Edited by JOHN BROWN, D.D., Edinburgh. Vol. III. London: Fullarton and Co.—[If the former volumes of these Theological Tracts were warmly received, as having great value, the present is certainly deserving of more emphatically cordial greeting. It contains, first, Howe's letter to Boyle, on "The Reconcilableness of God's Providence of the Sins of Man, with the Wisdom and Sincerity of the Means He uses to Prevent them." Then follows Andrew Marvel's "acute and witty" tract in defence of Howe, entitled, "Remarks on a late Disingenuous Discourse, writ by one T. D., under the Pretence of Answering Mr. John Howe's Letter." Of this tract Dr. Brown tells us, that it has never been included in any collection of Marvel's works, and, as only one copy is known to exist, was in great danger of being lost. He rightly adds, that "it is not inferior to anything its distinguished author has written," and that it "gives a peculiar value to this volume." Then follow five tracts, never before published, by the late Dr. Balmer, on "The Arian Hypothesis;" "On the Strength of Evidence for Christ's Divinity;" "On the Personality of the Holy Spirit;" "On the Divinity of the Spirit;" and "On the Divine Decrees:" they form a really valuable addition to orthodox theology. Another original tract is by the late Dr. John Martin, "On the Glory of God as the Great End of Moral Action." Pike's "Brief Thoughts" follow,—well spoken of and esteemed by Dr. Chalmers. The remainder consists of Dr. Snodgrass, on "The Leading Doctrines of the Gospel;" Dr. Harday on "The Progress of the Christian Religion;" Bonar on "The Character and Conduct of Judas Iscariot;" and Dr. Smalley on "The Perfection and Usefulness of the Divine Law." Dr. Brown has prefixed to each tract a Biographical and Literary Notice; thus greatly increasing the interest and value of the volume. He deserves the gratitude of theological students universally for the publication of this most useful series of volumes.]—*Notes and Reflections on the Epistle to the Ephesians*. By ARTHUR PRIDHAM. London: Binns and Goodwin.—[We may fairly presume that many of our readers know something of Mr. Pridham's previous works, on the Romans and Hebrews: the present is similar in character. It is not a critical commentary on the text; but an exposition of the course of thought and of the spirit and significance of the epistle. Practical reflections are interwoven with the exposition. Occasional critical notes, given as supplementary and elucidatory, show the author to have studied the text closely and carefully, and to be possessed of good culture and judgment. Yet we do not always approve his decisions, either as to translation or interpretation; and there are some millenarian views from which we entirely dissent. Yet the book is substantially "orthodox and evangelical," as well as really able. The author's strength is in his spiritual qualifications for an expositor:—they are of the highest order, and often produce most valuable results, in making luminous those inmost depths of the Apostle's thought, which the merely grammatical and critical commentator cannot reach. The book is vastly superior in its character and method to popular commentaries in general—such as Barnes, for instance: yet it is suited to all readers; and will especially be prized by thoughtful and devout Christian minds.]—*The Epistle of Paul to the Romans; with a Commentary and Revised Translation*. By A. A. LIVERMORE. London: E. T. Whitfield.—[Mr. Livermore is known as an intelligent and careful expositor, whose works on the Gospels and Acts, while thoroughly popular in character, are peculiarly excellent in what may be called moral commentary. To this work on the Romans he prefixes four introductory essays, written with real power and eloquence, though much more rhetorically than is common or desirable in such introductions. That on Paul's life, character, and writings, is a beautiful essay. That on Inspiration (on which subject the author is more orthodox than most of his party), though admittedly containing no very definite view of the subject, claims for the Scriptures the character of the sure "Word of God." The other two are on the Epistles generally, and that to the Romans specifically. The key to the author's interpretation of the epistle is, that its topic "is not, as has been stated, 'justification by faith,' as if the great question were, how a man is judged or estimated on the side of God; but 'righteousness by faith,'—faith-righteousness,—or how a man really is in his own character, on the side of himself." The view is not a new one; and it has able defenders, to whom it seems to imply all that the Reformation interpretation contains, and something more and deeper, too. From his own point of view, the author's exposition is consistent and satisfactory. Granting that point or not, every thoughtful reader may find it excellently helpful to the understanding of special passages; simplifying, as it does, much of what Tholuck and Olshausen have written, to whom the author is largely indebted. But, inasmuch as he is a Unitarian, there are whole groups of interpretations in this book, as in his former writings, which seem to us neither true nor capable of satisfying the text of the sacred writers.]

The Communion Service, from the Book of Common Prayer; with Select Readings from the Writings of the Rev. F. D. Maurice, M.A. Edited by the Right Rev. J. W. COLENSO, D.D., Lord Bishop of Natal, Cambridge. Macmillan and Co.

We are not unacquainted with several useful and excel-

lent works intended to prepare the mind for the celebration of "the Communion," which have obtained great popularity amongst the members of the Episcopal Church. But this little volume is better than all of them; and may be commended, not only to those who use the "Communion Service," but to all thoughtful Christians, as a most profitable companion for the recurring periods of the commemoration of the Lord's death in the ordinance of the Supper. The passages selected from Mr. Maurice's writings contain some of the truest gems of his works;—passages which, as Dr. Colenso says, "go at once to the reader's heart, and send, as it were, the life-blood through his whole being, and set him forward in a brave, rejoicing spirit, to his duty, either to do, or to suffer, as his Heavenly Lord shall order him." They suggest topics and furnish germs of thought, which the Christian pastor may often be grateful for, in preparing what are called amongst ourselves "Sacramental Addresses." And pious minds generally will find them to "minister refreshing draughts of spiritual life, drawn from the living wells of God's love." To a few words in the passages entitled "Consecration," and "Baptismal Calling," we must take exception;—but they are only a few. We may add, that the book is exquisitely printed and "got up."

The History of Woman; and her Connexion with Religion, Civilisation, and Domestic Manners, from the Earliest Period. By S. W. FULLOM, Author of "The Marvels of Science," "The Great Highway," &c. London: Longman and Co.

Mr. FULLOM's title-page promises a great deal; and his volumes do not fulfil the promise. We can hardly say we are disappointed, although we did hope that Mr. FulloM might prove to have here found a subject on which he could work more successfully and acceptably than in the composition of a romance of literary life; and we are sorry such is not the case. Of course, however mean and meagre such a compilation as the present may be, it could not avoid interesting particulars and readable snatches of biography. As a collection of notices and anecdotes of women, it has its pleasantness. and Mr. FulloM has the merit of easy fluency in telling whatever story he has to tell. But as a "History of Woman," it is singularly imperfect and unsatisfactory. We find nothing that indicates a real study, or even a true comprehension of the great subject announced on the title-page—the history of the connexion of woman with the civilisation, religion, and domestic life of all ages and generations! The information given is of the most ordinary kind, and gathered from universally accessible sources. A more unmodified piece of book-making has not reached us for a long while. Only people with few books and of slight culture, could tolerate these volumes; and such people are just those to whom such a guinea's worth certainly will not reach. The slow country book-club, and the small watering-place circulating-library, furnish the proper home and destination of such a book. It is the ambitious pretence of the work that provokes one to its condemnation; and almost blinds one to the merit and interest it may haply have, for a certain order of readers, as a book of biographical and anecdotal shreds and patches.

Gleanings.

Six hundred pounds is, it is understood, the price paid for Mr. Millais's *Rescue*. The *Order of Release*, exhibited last year, was sold to the same purchaser for three hundred guineas.

The third and fourth volumes of Mr. Macaulay's *History* are expected to appear in the present year. The concluding volumes of *Moore's Life*, by Lord J. Russell, are in the press.

Bachelors are not entirely lost to the refinement of sentiment, as will be seen by the following toast, offered by one of the much-abused fraternity, at a celebration:—"Ladies—sweetbriars in the garden of life."

Rowland Hill used to ride a great deal, and by exercise preserved vigorous health. On one occasion, when asked by a medical friend what physician he employed, he replied: "My physician has always been a horse!"

The photographic process is in active operation in Durham gaol, the likenesses of notorious prisoners being taken on admission, so as to facilitate their apprehension in the event of their escape.—*Newcastle Guardian*.

A poet asked a gentleman what he thought of his last production, "An Ode to Sleep." The latter replied, "You have done so much justice to the subject that it is impossible to read it without yielding to its influence."

A young gentleman of a neighbouring town having made some progress in acquiring a knowledge of Italian, addressed a few words to an organ grinder in his purest accent. He was astonished at receiving the following response—"I no speak Inglis."

Last week, one of the attendants at Ripon Cathedral showed to parties of visitors 130 young bats which had been taken from high corners inside the towers of the cathedral. He said that a similar crop of these light-hating creatures was gathered every season.

Mr. Ruskin has issued a pamphlet in which he is very severe upon the works of many whose names rank high in the catalogue of the Royal Academy. He styles Mr. Creswick, careless; Mr. Stanfield, wanting in atmosphere; Mr. Witherington and Mr. Redgrave, full of industrious but erroneous detail; whilst against Sir C. Eastlake, and Messrs. Herbert and Macclise, he

is very bitter; nor less so against Mr. D. Roberts, whose work in the present exhibition he calls a great architectural diagram of brick-red and green-grey.

The *Dumfries Courier* reports, with proper sadness, the closing of "that renowned marrying establishment, Gretna Hall."

A Banffshire angler, plying his rod in the Fiddich, placed it, in a moment of relaxation, against the parapet of a bridge, so that the hooks hung down on a level with the crown of the arch. On resuming his line, he found that he had caught two bats!

Dr. Humboldt, nephew of the great Humboldt, has established a hospital at Havana, to test a theory of inoculation for the yellow fever, on the principle of inoculation for small-pox. The inoculation is followed by a moderate fever and illness of about a week.

Alderman Carden being called upon by a woman in great haste, and indignant at an expression made to her, addressed him in the following terms, viz.—"Alderman, Mrs. Snooks, my next door neighbour, called me a thief; can't I make her prove it?" "Well," said the Alderman, after a moment's deliberation, "you may, but I think you had better not."

The legitimate character of the novel entitled "Moreduin," the pretended production of Sir Walter Scott, has met with what may be considered a decided exposure in the columns of the *Athenaeum*. In chap. 4 of vol. 1, there is reference made to the improving hand of "Granger" in the streets of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Now, Granger did not make the purchase which led to the vast alterations under his direction until 1834, whilst Sir W. Scott died in 1832.

Two curious advertisements recently appeared together in the *Morning Post*. The first relates to matrimony: "A young nobleman, possessing wealth and talents of the highest order, is desirous of meeting with a lady, whose happiness will be his highest aim, and on whom he would bestow all the deep affection of a faithful heart. The utmost secrecy may be relied upon. Address, 'Reginald,' Post-office, Oxford." The second to politics: "Any gentleman whose ambition leads him to public life, and prompts him to soar above the mediocrity of modern representation when seats are sought to found a trade, or ephemeralise a speculation, can have his wishes promoted, and his ambition directed by one who is qualified by education and Parliamentary experience.—Address, A. M. 38, Hans-place, Pimlico."

BIRTHS.

June 19, at 63, Wimpole-street, the wife of AUGUSTUS E. MAULEY, Esq., of a daughter.

June 19, at Stamford-hill, the wife of G. PINKERTON, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

June 9, at the Parish Church, Aston, Warwickshire, by the Rev. J. Stevenson, Vicar of Patricbourne, Kent, ERENERE ROBINSON WILLIAMS, Esq., solicitor, youngest son of Sir JOHN BICKERTON WILLIAMS, Knight, of Wem, Salop, to SARAH SELINA, only daughter of JOHN BIRCH, Esq., formerly of Shrewsbury.

June 12, at Maze-pond Chapel, Southwark, by the Rev. John Adey, Miss MARTHA ANN KENAN, eldest daughter of Mr. KEVAN, of Horsleydown, to Mr. WILLIAM ADE, of Alfriston, Sussex.

June 13, at St. George's Church, Camberwell, by the Rev. John Taylor, R. O'BRIEN, Esq., of Stockholm, to ANNIE CLEVER, youngest daughter of Mr. DAVID HINE, Albany-road, Kent-road.

June 13, at East-parade Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. John Reynolds, Mr. JOHN HARRIS, London, to MARTHA, youngest daughter of Mr. KNEIGHT, Chapel Alerton, near Leeds.

June 14, at Broad-street Chapel, Reading, by the Rev. J. Morrison, D.D., LL.D., the Rev. W. LEGG, B.A., minister of the chapel, to Miss DALE, of Castle-street, of the same town, eldest daughter of Mr. HENRY DALE, River-terrace, Islington.

June 14, at Ipswich, by the Rev. T. Patteson, Capt. H. J. W. JERVIS, R.A., son of Sir H. M. J. W. JERVIS, Bart., to LUCY, daughter of J. C. CORBOLD, Esq., M.P.

June 14, at New College Chapel, St. John's-wood, London, by the Rev. Dr. Harris, the Rev. JOSEPH SHAW, of Benton-park, Rawden, near Leeds, to HARRIET, youngest daughter of the late JAMES SPICER, of Kennington.

June 16, at the Abbey Church, Tewkesbury, by the Rev. Canon C. G. Davies, M.A., Mr. JOHN WINDSOR, of Deptford, son of Mr. THOMAS WINDSOR, of Feenes Farm, near Maidenhead, to FANNY, eldest daughter of Mr. P. OSBORNE, of Tewkesbury.

DEATHS.

June 6, drowned while bathing in the Severn, aged thirteen, WILLIAM MACPHERSON, eldest son of W. STRANGE, Esq., M.D., of Worcester.

June 9, at Albert-street, Mornington-crescent, Regent's-park, Major-General Baron WILLIAM HENRY OTTO DE BODE, aged seventy-seven.

June 9, at Beaumont, county of Dublin, ARTHUR GUINNESS, Esq., in his eighty-eighth year, beloved by his family, and venerated by all who knew him.

June 10, at Brunswick-terrace, Windsor, ESTHER, wife of the Rev. J. A. MILLER.

June 11, at his residence, near Bristol, JOHN, Earl of CARYSPORT, in his seventy-fifth year.

June 12, at his residence, Addison-road North, JAMES HENRY MANDEVILLE, Esq., only son of Mr. MANDEVILLE, formerly Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople and at Buenos Ayres.

June 12, at Cockfield Hall, Yoxford, in the sixty-second year of his age, Sir CHARLES BLOIS, Bart.

June 13, at Pontonville, aged twenty-seven years, the Rev. WILLIAM H. MEREWETHER, second son of the late Dean of Hereford.

June 13, at Nelson-square, CHARLES COCHRANE, Esq., son of the late Hon. BASIL COCHRANE, of Portman-square.

June 14, at Southampton, ALICE, daughter of the late Lieut-General the Hon. Sir G. CATHCART.

June 15, at 10, Camden-street, Islington, of scarlet fever, FREDERICK, the third son of Mr. JAMES DANKIN, aged four years and six months.

June 19, at St. Neot's, Mr. JAMES PAINE, merchant, aged sixty-five.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

TUESDAY EVENING.

The Money Market has been for the most part weak during the past week. All speculative transactions in the market appear for the present to be held in abeyance, and the general absence of intelligence in connection with the operations in the East has given rather a stagnant appearance to monetary affairs, and caused the recent retrograde movement. To-day, however, there has been a marked improvement in the Funds,

since the opening, and an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. has been well supported, Consols being now at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ ex. div. for the 10th July. Reduced Three per Cents. are at 92 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the New Three per Cents. 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bank Stock, 211. Exchequer-bills, 18s. to 21s. prem. Ditto, advertised, 14s. to 17s. prem. Ditto Bonds, 101 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Foreign Market remains firm, but the business transactions have been unimportant. Brazilian 3 per Cents., 100 $\frac{1}{2}$; ditto, Small, 100 $\frac{1}{2}$. Danish 3 per Cents., 82 $\frac{1}{2}$. Spanish 3 per Cents. Deferred, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$; ditto, Passive, 4. Turkish Bonds continue quiet at 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Money and Account.

The Share Market has evinced weakness, and prices have receded to a slight extent.

The movements of the Precious Metals continue to be favourable to the accumulation of gold in this country. The total Imports are above 520,000L, and the Exports only 78,000L.

The accounts of the progress of trade in the manufacturing towns during the past week present no change of importance. At Manchester, owing to the caution excited by the recent movements at Liverpool, the transactions have been small, with a tendency towards lower prices. The Birmingham report shows the iron trade to be fairly maintained, although confidence is greatly checked by the apprehension that there are yet several speculative firms that must break up. In the other occupations of the place there has been no material alteration. At Nottingham a moderate business has been carried on, and signs of improvement are observable in the foreign demand, but the stoppage of James Heywood and Co., a firm largely connected with iron-works, collieries, and quarries, both at Nottingham and Derby, has caused some anxiety. In the woollen districts there has been no reaction from the late increase of activity, and from the Irish linen markets the report describes an improvement in prices and a general increase of confidence. With respect to the prospects of the harvest throughout the United Kingdom, the accounts from all quarters are more unanimous and more strikingly favourable, looking at the doubts recently entertained, than on any former occasion.

In the business of the port of London during the past week, and about the docks and quays generally, there has been considerable animation; although the arrivals were less numerous than in the preceding weeks, the vessels were of a larger class and the cargoes of a more varied description. The total number of ships reported inward was 209, being 35 less than in the previous week. The number cleared outward was 140, of which 32 were in ballast, showing a decrease of 12. The pressure on the landing department of the Customs, notwithstanding the activity of the Inspector-General, is still very great, a large number of extra hands being constantly employed in assisting the landing officers.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week have comprised only three vessels—one for Sydney, one for Launceston, and one for Port Phillip, with an aggregate capacity of 2,208 tons. The rates of freight exhibit little variation.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

| | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 3 per Ct. Consols | Shut | Shut | Shut | Shut | — | — |
| Consols for Account | 92 x d | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d |
| 3 per Ct. Red. | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d |
| New 3 per Ct. | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Annuities | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ x d | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — |
| India Stock | Shut | Shut | Shut | Shut | — | — |
| Bank Stock | 211 | 211 | 281 | 210 | 211 | 211 |
| Exchequer-bills | 18 pm | 15 pm | 19 pm | 18 pm | 18 pm | — |
| Long Annuities | 31 | 3 | 15-163 | 15-16 | — | 4 |

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 9th day of June, 1855.

| ISSUE DEPARTMENT. | | GOVERNMENT DEBT. | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Notes issued | £31,056,945 | Government Debt | £11,015,100 |
| | | Old Securities | 2,984,900 |
| | | Gold Coin & Bullion | 17,056,945 |
| | | Silver Bullion | — |
| | £31,056,945 | | £31,056,945 |
| BANKING DEPARTMENT. | | GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. | |
| Proprietors' Capital | £14,553,000 | Government Securities (including Loan Weight Annuity) | £12,702,488 |
| Reserve | 3,114,923 | Other Securities | 12,303,431 |
| Public Deposits | 5,447,297 | Notes | 11,605,775 |
| Other Deposits | 13,168,983 | Gold and Silver Coin | 707,113 |
| Seven Day and other Bills | 1,036,699 | | |
| | £37,320,807 | | £37,320,807 |

June 14, 1855.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Friday, June 15, 1855.

BANKRUPT.

BEATLEY, H. Ely, Cambridgeshire, ironmonger, June 29, July 27; solicitors, Mr. Church, Spital-square; and Mr. Marshall, Ely.

KENT, B., Norfolk-street, Strand, hotel keeper, June 22, July 29; solicitor, Mr. Wetherfield, Basinghall-street.

NEEDHAM, W., and WHITE, S., Friday-street, Cheapside, silk manufacturers, June 26, July 28; solicitors, Messrs. Sheard and Baker, Old Jewry.

MEADEN, R. K., Walbrook, City, wine merchant, June 26, July 27; solicitors, Messrs. Norton and Son, New-street, Bishopsgate.

WALKER, R., Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire, stationer, June 25, July 25; solicitor, Mr. Archer, Raquet-court, Fleet-street.

DAVIS, W., Birmingham, bootmaker, June 23, July 20; solicitor, Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham.

FIENBURG, H., Newport, Monmouthshire, clothier, June 26, July 24; solicitors, Mr. Blakey, Newport; and Messrs. Bevan and Gilling, Bristol.

WILLIAMSON, T., Truro, Cornwall, draper, June 28, July 19; solicitors, Messrs. Simmons and Cock, Truro; and Mr. Stogdon, Exeter.

MOORE, J. H., Kingston-upon-Hull, joiner, and New Holland,

Lincolnshire, brickmaker, July 11, August 1; solicitors, Messrs. Stamp and Jackson, Kingston-upon-Hull.

FENTON, J., Liverpool, apothecary, July 2 and 23; solicitor, Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.

BARTON, J., BARTON, G., and PARKS, J., Manchester, copper roller manufacturers, July 4, July 25; solicitors, Messrs. Slater and Heelis, Manchester.

PUNAHON, T., Durham, builder, July 29, July 30; solicitors, Messrs. Hartley, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; and Mr. Brignal, Durham.

DIVIDENDS.

July 6, W. Harding, Great Saffron-hill, Holborn, baker—July 7, J. David, Colney Hatch, Middlesex, licensed victualler—July 6, J. Bentley, Smithfield-bars, City, cheesemonger—July 6, H. Quarterman, Oxford, carpenter—July 6, F. Dinsdale, Coleman-street, City, dealer in iron—July 6, W. Cornish, Great Thurlow, Suffolk, grocer—July 27, J. Webber, Birmingham, grocer—July 27, R. Russell, Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, printer—July 6, F. W. Holmes, Leeds, Yorkshire, wine and spirit merchant—July 6, S. Oldfield, J. Allan, and E. J. S. Couzens, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, woollen cloth merchants—July 6, J. Allan (separate estate), Huddersfield, Yorkshire, woollen cloth merchant—July 6, E. J. S. Couzens (separate estate), Huddersfield, Yorkshire, woollen cloth merchant—July 6, T. Nicholson, Leeds, machine maker—July 6, C. Hargreaves and M. Hargreaves, Bradford, whitesmiths.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Camphansen and Grantoff, Billiter-square, merchants; as far as regards A. Grantoff—W. Lyne, Oddington, Gloucestershire, and W. Cother, Middle Aston, Oxfordshire, auctioneers—W. T. Lyon and H. W. Etherington, Sittingbourne, Kent, mercers—Moore, Smith, and Co., Nottingham, lace manufacturers; as far as regards J. Moore—W. F. Hoyle and E. Marsh, jun., Rotherham, attorneys—Jones and Sons, High-street, Clerkenwell, tailors; as far as regards A. Jones—Moore and Collins, Liverpool, composition ornament manufacturers—R. Wilson, W. Pickering, and J. C. Fletcher, Wheatheaf-wharf, Goole, and Leeds, wharfingers—J. Scrimmes and R. Hewitt, Barking, ship-builders—Thackray and Burniston, Leeds, wool merchants—J. Wild and Son, Bury, Lancashire, cotton-spinners—Shepherd and Crosier; as far as regards the Bannerdale Blacklead Company and Mine and the Jacky Wipes Fold Mine, Greystoke, Cumberland—Taylor and Pinches, Wellington, Salop, maltsters—J. and F. Devonport, Birmingham, machinists—R. Dawber and Co., Lincoln, brewers; as far as regards W. Dawber—A. Bayfield and Sons, Norwich, ironmongers; as far as regards W. H. Bayfield—J. Cross and Co., Radcliffe-bridge, Lancashire, waterproof fabric manufacturers—W. H. Hobson and Co., Sheffield, file manufacturers—Muir and Ponton, Little Carter-lane and Old Fish-street, wine merchants—Thame and Bromley, Greenwich, ironmongers—Bailey, Crawshaw, and Co., Salford, reed manufacturers; as far as regards W. Goodall—Bennett and Newham, Cuckfield, Sussex, timber merchants—G. and W. Clark, Bury St. Edmund's, tailors—W. H. Brown and W. Blackett, Temple-chambers, Fleet-street, architects—R. Williams and M. Cooke, Bradford, Lancashire, fire brickmakers—Threlfall and Co., Liverpool, merchants; as far as regards W. Threlfall.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERINGS.

Hood, J., Newmilns, Ayrshire, draper, June 27.

Stark, J., Glasgow, glass manufacturer, June 28.

Cameron, A., Glasgow, merchant, June 28.

Knox, A., Glasgow, wine merchant, July 2.

Alexander, J., and Alexander, C., Glasgow, tea merchants, June 29.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Hall, W., Fordingbridge, butcher, first div. of 3s. 6d., June 20, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Lee's, Aldermanbury.

Peacock, W., Budge-row, wholesale clothier, first div. of 2s. 9d., June 20, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Edwards's, Sambrook-court—Whalley, W., Stockport, Cheshire, cotton spinner, first div. of 10d., June 19, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pott's, Manchester—Swales, J., Openshaw, Lancashire, ironmonger, first div. of 1s. 6d., June 19, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pott's, Manchester—Hill, W., Manchester, canvas dealer, first div. of 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., June 26, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester.

Tuesday, June 19, 1855.

BANKRUPT.

TALLIS, F., Upper Chadwell-street, Clerkenwell, and Crane-court, City, printer, June 28, July 31; solicitor, Mr. Gilham, Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn.

MATHEW, J., Clarence-villas, Kingsland, and Leadenhall-street, City, mining share dealer, June 28, July 31; solicitor, Mr. Cocker, Gower-street, Bedford-square.

WOOLDRIDGE, J. W., Wickham, Hampshire, tanner, June 29, August 7; solicitors, Messrs. Lambert and Co., John-street, Bedford-row; and Messrs. Hoskins, Gosport.

SHEPHERD, T., King's Lynn, Norfolk, hop merchant, July 3, August 1; solicitors, Mr. Redpath, Old Jewry-chambers, City; and Messrs. Shackles and Son, Hull.

GRAY, G. G., Grantham, Lincolnshire, hostler, July 10, August 7; solicitors, Messrs. Davidson and Bradbury, Weavers' Hall, Basinghall-street; and Mr. Bridges, Birmingham; and Messrs. White and Co., Grantham.

ROSE, S., and ROSE, R. W., Honiton, Devonshire, drapers, June 27, July 24; solicitors, Messrs. Whitworth, Manchester; Mr. Aberdeen, Honiton; and Mr. Terrell, Exeter.

JONES, W., Ewloe, Flintshire, licensed victualler, June 29, July 20; solicitors, Messrs. Evans and Son, Liverpool.

HOWARTH, S., and HOWARTH, N., Radcliffe, Lancashire, dyers, June 29, July 20; solicitors, Messrs. Cooper and Sons, Manchester.

DYSON, N. L., Macclesfield, grocer, June 29, July 20; solicitors, Messrs. Evans, Liverpool; and Mr. Blain, Manchester.

JEDKINS, C. T., Manchester, and Cannon-street West, City, sewing machine manufacturer, July 2, August 1; solicitors, Messrs. Cooper and Sons, Manchester.

KITTS, T., Bolton, Lancashire, cotton spinner, July 5 and 26; solicitors, Messrs. Coppock and Oldham, Stockport.

DIVIDENDS.

July 10, J. Conquest, Moorgate-street, City, money scrivener—July 10, R. Monti, Great Marlborough-street, and Princes-street, Hanover-square, sculptor—July 10, W. Cobb, Maidstone, Kent, builder—July 10, W. Fitch, Old Fish-street-hill, Upper Thames-street, wholesale stationer—July 11, W. K. Gibbs, Dudley, Worcestershire, grocer—July 11, J. Latimer, Newcastle-under-Lyme, draper—July 11, F. Behrens, Birmingham, general merchant—July 12, W. Geldart, North Shields, ship owner—July 12, S. Langdale, J. Eyton, and M. J. Cooke, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants—July 13, T. Robinson, Hexham, Northumberland, currier—July 10, W. Houston, Manchester, joiner—July 12, D. Hearn, Cheltenham, linen-draper—July 12, W. Puleston, Wrexham, Denbighshire, draper—July 13, J. Weichbrodt, Liverpool, merchant—July 11, W. Gibson, Alford, Lincolnshire, innkeeper.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

A. Henderson and W. T. Castle, Union-street, Lambeth, pawnbrokers—R. Nichol, S. W. Riley, and C. S. Hasloch, Cooper's-row, Tower-hill, commission merchants—Elizabeth Denny and G. J. Denny, Northwold, Norfolk, grocers—J. Carter and J. Mascard, Banbury, Oxfordshire, agricultural implement sellers—Lydia Hobson, and E. C. Hobson, Leadenhall-street, City, and New Crane-wharf, Shadwell, wine merchants—J. Bonnell and W. Newby, Horton, Yorkshire, worsted spinners—Eliza Whitehead and Mary Anne Whitehead, Rochdale, Lancashire, confectioners—J. Howson and W. Fisher, Birmingham, engineers—John Gibson and Joseph Gibson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, painters—J. Barnett and W. Boland, Birmingham, jewellers—W. S. Threlfall and J. Threlfall, West End, West Riding of Yorkshire, cotton spinners—W. Birks, S. Cope, and T. Cooper, Longton, Staffordshire Pot-teries, manufacturers of china—J. Redfern and W. Houghton, Thornhill Lees, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturers—E. Easton and T. S. Cornish, Bradford, Yorkshire, millers—F. Farr and J. Farr, Bishops Hatfield, Hertfordshire, farmers—S. Long, P. Long, R. N. Long, C. Keeling, J. Monks, C. Stone, G. Ellis, S. Hayley, and Martha Nowell, St. George, Gloucestershire, coal miners—J. W. Wayman and J. G. Garrick, Sunderland Durham, ship brokers—W. P. Cullen, Aldersgate-street, City, and M. Sweetnam, St. John-street, Clerkenwell, apothecaries—W. Marshall and W. Smith, Sheffield, edge tool manufacturers—W. Limb and E. Fowle, Beeston, Nottinghamshire, machine owners—J. J. Rogers and Sarah Holtham, Brighton, linen-draper—E.

Robinson and T. Chadwick, Manchester, umbrella makers—R. Sly and G. J. Grant, Birmingham, coach furniture manufacturers—E. Halle, S. Booth, S. J. Halle, and G. R. Goldie, Glasgow, commission merchants; as far as regards E. Halle and S. Booth.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Hill, W., and Wackerbarth, W. K., Leadenhall-street, City, ship agents, final div. of 7-16d, June 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Haddingham, D., Cambridge, linen-draper, second div. of 10d, June 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Graham's, Coleman-street—Webb, C. J., Leadenhall-street, City, silversmith, final div. of 1s. 14d, June 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—Steel, H., Norwich, tea dealer, final div. of 1s. 14d, June 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—Harris, T., West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, chair manufacturer, final div. of 2s., June 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—Isaacson, S. (separate estate), Strand, printer, first div. of 4s. 6d, June 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Stansfeld's, Basinghall-street—Hannell, J., Manchester, tobacconist, first div. of 2s. 10d, June 19, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Herniman's, Manchester—Pickstone, R., and Mayall, A., Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne, cotton spinners, first div. of 7s. 4d, July 10, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester—Baron, B., Knowles, H. W., and Heyworth, J., Bacup, Lancashire, manufacturers, first div. of 2s. 4d, July 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester—Hunter, J., Manchester, tea merchant, further div. of 9d, July 3, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester—Price, W. B. (separate estate), Shrewsbury, banker, div. of 20s. on debts proved since last dividend, any Thursday, at Christie's, Birmingham.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, June 18.

We had a fair supply of English wheat at market this morning, for which rather more money was asked at the commencement of business, but this checked sales; ultimately, however, good samples were taken off by millers at last Monday's quotations; for foreign wheat there was a comparative demand at slightly improved rates. Flour met with buyers at the prices of last week. Barley fully as dear and ready sale. Beans and peas without alteration. The arrivals of oats being smaller, fine fresh corn sold readily at an advance of 6d per quarter upon last week's prices. Linseed and cakes maintained previous rates.

BRITISH. FOREIGN.

| Wheat— | s. d. | Wheat | s. d. |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Essex and Kent, Red | 72 to 74 | Dantzic | 80 to 82 |
| Ditto White | 76 82 | Konigsberg, Red | 74 84 |
| Linc., Norfolk, and | | Pomeranian, Red | 76 82 |
| Yorkshire Red | — | Rostock | 76 82 |
| Scottish | 72 74 | Danish and Holstein | 72 76 |
| Rye | 44 46 | East Friesland | 70 72 |
| Barley malting (new) | 33 35 | Petersburg | 68 72 |
| Distilling | — | Riga and Archangel | 60 62 |
| Malt (pale) | 62 70 | Polish Odessa | 70 72 |
| Beans, Maragan | 46 50 | Marianopoli | 78 84 |
| Ticks | — | Taganrog | 60 64 |
| Harrow | — | Egyptian | 46 50 |
| Pigeon | — | American (U.S.) | 74 84 |
| Peas, White | 42 44 | Barley, Pomeranian | 32 35 |
| Grey | 38 42 | Konigsberg | — |
| Maple | 38 42 | Danish | 32 36 |
| Bolters | 44 46 | East Friesland | 29 31 |
| Tares (English) | 35 38 | Egyptian | 25 27 |
| Foreign | 36 38 | Odessa | 25 27 |
| Oats (English feed) | 26 27 | Beans— | |
| Flour, town made, per | | Horse | 40 42 |
| Sack of 280 lbs. | 65 70 | Pigeon | 42 44 |
| Linseed, English | 75 80 | Egyptian | 36 38 |
| Baltic | 64 66 | Peas, White | 42 44 |
| Black Sea | 60 62 | Oats— | |
| Hempseed | 48 50 | Dutch | 28 28 |
| Canaryseed | 45 52 | Jahde | 23 28 |
| Cloverseed, per cwt. of | | Danish | 23 27 |
| 112 lbs. English | 40 50 | Danish, Yellow feed | 25 29 |
| German | 44 56 | Swedish | 27 28 |
| French | 44 50 | Petersburg | 20 27 |
| American | 44 46 | Flour, per bar. of 190 lbs. | |
| Linseed Cakes, 154 lbs to 154 lbs | | New York | 38 44 |
| Rape Cake, 64 lbs to 64 lbs per ton | | Spanish, per sack | 58 60 |
| Rapeseed, 42 lbs to 42 lbs per last | | Carawayseed | 32 34 |

BUTCHER'S MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, June 18.

For the time of year, the show of foreign stock was but moderate. The arrivals of beasts from our own grazing districts were tolerably good, and in full average condition. All breeds sold briskly, at an advance in the quotations paid in Smithfield on Monday last of 4d per 8lbs, and a good clearance was effected. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,800 Scots and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 500 of various breeds; and, from Scotland, 600 horned and polled Scots. The arrivals from Ireland, last week, direct by sea, were 195 beasts, 92 sheep, and 19 lambs. We were tolerably well supplied with sheep, yet the mutton trade ruled very brisk, and the quotations were quite 2d per 8lbs higher. The best old Downs realized fully 5s 4d per 8lbs. There was a good demand for lambs, at full prices, viz., 5s 4d to 6s 8d per 8lbs. The few calves on sale moved off briskly, at from 4d to 6d per 8lbs above the currencies of Monday last. The top price was 5s 6d per 8lbs. There was more doing in pigs, and prices had an upward tendency. The arrangements for the reception of the beasts, sheep, lambs, and pigs gave great satisfaction, and reflected great credit upon the City authorities; but it will, we consider, be found necessary to afford additional shelter for the calves, which suffered rather severely from the keen action of the west wind. Evidently, a siding is required to protect them from the inclemency of the weather.

Per 8lbs. to sink the calf.

| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Inf. coarse beasts | 3 6 to 3 8 | Pr. coarse woolled | 4 0 to 4 10 |
| Second quality | 3 10 4 4 | Prime Southdown | 5 0 5 4 |
| Prime large oxen | 4 6 4 8 | Lge. coarse calves | 4 4 5 0 |
| Prime Scots, &c. | 4 10 5 0 | Prime small | 5 2 5 6 |
| Coarse inf. sheep | 3 8 3 10 | Large hogs | 3 4 3 8 |
| Second quality | 4 0 4 6 | Neat sm. porkers | 4 0 4 4 |

Lambs, 5s 4d to 6s 8d.

Suckling calves, 23s to 30s; Quarter-old store-pigs, 22s to 27s each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, June 18.

Our markets, to-day, were but moderately supplied with each kind of meat, and the general demand ruled steady, as follows:—

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----------|----|-------------|----------------|----------|-----|
| Inf. beef | 3s | 2d to 3s | 4d | Inf. mutton | 3s | 4d to 3s | 6d |
| Middling ditto | 3s | 6d | 3s | 8d | Middling ditto | 3s | 8d |
| Primelargo | 3s | 10d | 4s | 0d | Prime ditto | 4s | 8d |
| Do. small | 4s | 2d | 4s | 4d | Veal | 3s | 4d |
| Large pork | 3s | 4d | 3s | 8d | Small pork | 3s | 10d |
| | | | | Lambs | 5s | 2d to 6s | 6d. |

Lambs, 5s 2d to 6s 6d.

PRODUCE MARKET, MINCING-LANE, June 19.

SCALES.—The market has opened with a dull appearance, and last week's prices have scarcely been supported. 900 hhds of West India, including 250 in public sale, Barbadoes, sold at 34s to 39s 6d. Crytallised Demerara, 33s 6d to 39s. 9,500 bags of Mauritius were offered in public sale, of which 1,500 were bought in; the remainder sold, brown, 31s to 34s; yellow, 34s to 36s; grainy, 37s 6d to 39s. 500 bags Bengal sold; Benares, 37s 6d to 38s 6d. A cargo of Havannah, 3,200 boxes, sold at 22s 6d, for Amsterdam. The refined market has been quiet, but we do not alter quotations; brown lumps, 47s 6d; grocery, 48s to 53s. Molasses: Two cargoes of Cuba sold at 17s 6d to 17s 9d, to arrive.

COFFE.—300 casks of plantation Ceylon were offered in public sale and sold at last week's currency, 58s to 66s 6d. 1,400 bags of native Ceylon were also offered, and bought in at 46s 6d to 47s; about half subsequently sold at 46s 6d. 120 bales Mocha sold 72s to 84s.

TEA.—The market continues steady, with a limited business. Common congou, 84d, buyers.

Cocoa.—500 bags Trinidad were offered, and the greater part sold 28s to 45s.

RICE.—The market has been quiet to-day.

SALTPEPER.—The demand continues brisk. About 1,000 bags, refraction 7 to 8, sold 28s to 29s 9d; and 400 bags fine, refraction 5, at 31s.

RUM.—This article has a very firm appearance, and holders ask high prices, but the amount of business done has been limited.

COTTON.—About 200 bales sold to-day.

INDIGO.—3,800 chests are now declared for the next quarterly sale.

METALS.—Iron: Scotch pig iron quoted 76s to 77s. Spelter has advanced to 23 1/2 10s to 23 1/2 15s.

TALLOW.—St. Petersburg Y.C. quoted 51s 6d to 51s 9d.

In other articles no material alteration.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, June 18.—Very little was done in Irish butter last week, and no change worth notice occurred in prices, but they were nominal, and supported with difficulty. The advices from Ireland gave a temporary support to the market; otherwise, the feeling and appearances inclined downwards. Foreign, of best quality, was in demand at 2s more money. Middling and inferior kinds were not a ready sale at a reduction of 2s to 4s. Bacon: Irish and Hambro' sided sides were 1s dearer, and sold to a fair extent. American sides and middles were rather dull; the high rates required checked the demand. Hams were a free sale at full prices. Lard of prime quality was saleable; secondary quality nearly neglected.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

| Friesland, per cwt. | 88 to 92 | Cheshire (new) per cwt. | 70 to 80 |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Kiel | 91 94 | Cheddar | 68 80 |
| Dorset | 98 102 | Double Gloucester | 68 74 |
| Carlow | 90 100 | Single ditto | 56 70 |
| Waterford | 88 94 | York Hams (new) | 78 90 |
| Cork (new) | 84 98 | Westmoreland ditto | 76 86 |
| Limerick | — | Irish ditto | 70 80 |
| Silgo | — | Wiltshire Bacon (dried) | 78 80 |
| Fresh, per dozen | 12 13 | Irish (green) | 70 74 |

COVENT-GARDEN, Saturday, June 16.—A good supply of most things in season is now well kept up. Peaches, nectarines, and cherries are more abundant, and grapes are plentiful and good. French cherries fetch from 1s to 4s per pound. Oranges realise from 4s 6d to 12s per hundred. French cauliflowers are still imported, but English ones are fast superseding them. There has also been a large supply of green peas from France this week, fresh and good. For asparagus there is a good demand. Kidney potatoes fetch from 4s to 5s per dozen pounds. Lettuce realise 9d to 1s per score. Cut flowers consist of passion-flowers, tulips, heliotropes, euphorbias, carnations, cyclamens, azaleas, camellias, Chinese primroses, heaths, and roses.

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, June 18.—Very moderate supplies of potatoes have come to hand since Monday last. To-day these markets were but scantily supplied, yet the trade ruled very inactive, as follows: York regents, 120s to 145s; Kent and Essex ditto, 120s to 130s; Scotch ditto, 110s to 120s; ditto reds, 100s to 110s; blues, 90s to 105s; Lincolns, 100s to 115s per ton.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, June 18.—The market has remained steady, and the demand moderate, during the past week. Very few choice lots are now to be met with, and consequently middling qualities meet with more inquiry. The currency of last week is fully supported.

| Mid and East Kent pockets | 14 0 to 18 10 |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Weald of Kent | 13 10 to 15 0 |
| Sussex | 12 0 to 13 10 |

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, June 18.—Our market is steady, and prices are fully supported. F.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 52s, and for forward delivery, 54s 6d per cwt. Town tallow, 50s per cwt net cash. Rough fat, 2s 9d per 8lbs.

PARTICULARS.

| | 1851. | 1852. | 1853. | 1854. | 1855. |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Stock | Casks, 37698 | Casks, 40807 | Casks, 24100 | Casks, 31498 | Casks, 46917 |
| Price of Yellow Candle | 37s 6d 38s 9d | 47s 6d 48s 9d | 47s 6d 48s 9d | 47s 6d 48s 9d | 47s 6d 48s 9d |
| Delivery last Week | 959 1637 | 1292 1070 | 1070 1020 | | |
| Ditto from the 1st of June | 2935 3524 | 3109 2453 | 3203 755 | | |
| Arrived last Week | 1912 2901 | 1601 737 | 755 2107 | | |
| Ditto from the 1st of June | 4100 3703 | 3894 931 | 2107 7d | | |
| Price of Town Tallow | 38s 0d 39s 6d | 49s 3d 64 9d | 52 7d | | |

HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, June 16.

| HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, June 10. | | | | |
|---|---------|----|---------|--------|
| Market Hides, 56 to 64lbs. | 0 3 1/2 | to | 0 3 1/2 | pr lb. |
| Ditto 64 72 lbs. | 0 3 1/2 | to | 0 3 1/2 | " |
| Ditto 72 80 lbs. | 0 3 1/2 | to | 0 3 1/2 | " |
| Ditto 80 88 lbs. | 0 4 | to | 0 4 1/2 | " |
| Ditto 88 96 lbs. | 0 4 1/2 | to | 0 4 1/2 | " |
| Ditto 96 104 lbs. | 0 0 | to | 0 0 | " |
| Horse Hides | 5 6 | to | 0 0 | each |
| Calf Skins, light | 2 0 | to | 3 0 | " |
| Ditto full | 6 0 | to | 0 0 | " |
| Polled Sheep | 0 0 | to | 0 0 | " |
| Kents and Half Breds | 0 0 | to | 0 0 | " |
| Downs | 4 9 | to | 6 0 | " |
| Lambs | 2 3 | to | 3 6 | " |
| Shearings | 0 11 | to | 1 0 | " |

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were 9,683 bales, of which 3,593 were from Van Diemen's Land, 1,999 from Port Phillip, 1,730 from South Australia, 544 from Sydney, 54 from Germany, and the rest from Buenos Ayres, &c. The market here is firm. From the German fairs the reports read well, and higher prices have generally been obtained, as compared with last year. In Hungary the market has been rather flat, owing to the backward season and the badness of the roads for travelling. We have, at length, to notice something like a firm movement in the British market. Since Monday last, more disposition has been shown to effect purchases of nearly all descriptions, and in some instances, the quotations have had an upward tendency. The stocks in the hands of the manufacturers are trifling.

| Down tags | 1 0 to 1 1 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Half-bred | 1 0 to 1 1 |
| Ewes, clothing | 0 11 to 1 0 1/2 |
| Kent fleeces | 1 0 to 1 1 |
| Combing skins | 0 10 to 1 0 1/2 |
| Flannel wool | 0 11 to 1 1 1/2 |
| Blanket wool | 0 6 to 0 11 |

OILS, Monday.—The demand for linseed oil is less active, and prices are rather easier. The quotation on the spot is 38s 3d, and for the last three months 40s 3d. Coconut is selling slowly, at 41s 3d to 42s 6d, and palm 40s to 41s. Spermin moves off slowly, at 130s to 134s. Turpentine and tar are held at full prices, but the sale for those articles is far from active.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—There has been a moderate demand for Baltic hemp at 45s to 46s per ton for Petersburg clean. The flax market is inactive, yet we have no change to notice in the quotations. Jute and coir goods are tolerably firm.

METALS, LONDON, Saturday, June 16.—We have had a good demand for spelter, at 22 1/2 6d to 22 1/2 10s per ton on the spot. Scotch pig iron has moved off slowly at 76s. Sheets, single, in London, are quoted at 10s 5s; and nail rods, 8 1/2 10s. Lead is still firm, at 21s to 21 1/2 10s for Spanish, and 22 1/2 10s to 23s for British pig. Tin is active, at 113s for Banca, and 106s to 109s for Straits. All other metals are steady.

COALS, Monday.—A firm market, with an upward tendency. Belmont's, 20s 6d; Hutton, 29s 6d; Russell's Hutton, 19s 6d; Stewart, 18s 6d; Eden, 19s 3d; Lambton, 20s; Gosforth, 17s 6d; Tanfield, 15s; Hartley's, 18s. Fresh arrivals, 121; 27 left from last sales; total, 148.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, June 19.—The market closed heavily, and compared with Friday's rates, all kinds are much the same; perhaps they ought to be called nominal, for this has been one of the quietest days we have seen for a long time. The sales were computed at 2,000 bales; 100 Bahia, at 7d; 100 Surat, at 4 1/2 d; 60 Sea Islands, at 15d, 16d, 19d. The total sales since Thursday, 20,000 bales; and imports 25,000.

Advertisements.

The success of this Society at the First Meeting being so great, no further notices will be issued.

CONGREGATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, No. 3, held at the BELGRAVE HALL, 41, LOWER BELGRAVE-PLACE, PIMLICO.

1,000l. (in addition to the 500l. already sold) will be submitted to competition at the SECOND MEETING, the 4th July next, at Eight o'clock.

Subscription, 5s. per month; Six per cent. on withdrawals and Six per cent. given for deposits.

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No charge for Policy Stamps, nor for Service in the Yeomanry or Militia Corps.

Policies in force, upwards of 7,000.
The Assurance Fund amounts to 1,402,522l. Income upwards of 230,000 per Annum.

The sum of 397,000l. was added to Policies at the last Division, which produced an average Bonus of 67l. per Cent. on the Premiums paid. For particulars apply to

ALEXANDER MACDONALD, Secretary,
6, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

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LAND DEPARTMENT.—A most eligible Freehold Estate, consisting of eighty-six plots of Building land at Hammer-smith, conferring votes for the county of Middlesex, is now being distributed. A Ballot monthly. Shares, 40l. each; or 5s. per month.

DEPOSIT DEPARTMENT.—Sums of 5l. and upwards received at Five per cent. Interest returnable at a short notice.

An Estate, situate in another highly-favoured suburb of London, will be offered shortly. All information may be had of

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RAILWAY ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

16,321l. 5s. have already been paid as compensation for Fatal and other Railway Accidents, by the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

EXAMPLES.

1,000l. was paid to the Widow of J. G., killed on the 24th February 1852, secured by a payment of 1l.

350l. was paid to H. C. H. J., who had his leg broken on the 31st Aug., 1853, secured by a payment of 1l.

900l. was paid to W. P., severely injured on the 19th September, 1854, secured by a payment of 1l.

For the convenience of frequent travellers, Periodical Insurances are granted, which now cover the risk of Fatal Accidents while travelling in any class carriage on any Railway in the United Kingdom or on the Continent of Europe, and insure Compensation for Personal Injury in any Railway Accident in the United Kingdom only.

To insure 1,000l. at an Annual Premium of 90s.

Ditto 500l. ditto 45s.

Insurances can also be effected securing the same advantages for terms of five or ten years, or for the whole of life, at greatly reduced rates, which may be learned from the Company's Prospectus, to be had at the Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations.

A new class of Insurance has also been established in case of Death by Railway accident alone, without compensation for injury.

To insure 1,000l. at an Annual Premium of 100s.

Ditto any sum not exceeding 1,000l. for the whole of life by a single payment of 6s. per cent.; thus one payment of 2l. will secure 1,000l.

The Premiums charged include the Stamp Duty, this being the only Company insuring against Railway Accidents empowered by Special Act of Parliament to pay a commuted Stamp Duty. Railway Passengers' Assurance Office, WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary,
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THE NATIONAL REVIEW.

On the 30th JUNE, 1855, it is intended to publish the First Number of "THE NATIONAL REVIEW," a new Quarterly Journal of General Literature, Politics, and Social and Religious Philosophy.

In originating such a Periodical the Conductors believe that they will supply a want long recognised, and every day more urgently felt by thousands of their thoughtful countrymen, who are unable to identify themselves with any one of the acknowledged parties in Church or State. It appears to us that there is no party, ecclesiastical or political, that is not manifestly embarrassed rather than sustained by its own watchwords and traditions. The established and conventional formulas of thought are confessedly inadequate to express the actual convictions of the time; and, though often liberally interpreted or questionably stretched to embrace the new conditions, this very accommodation virtually surrenders their essential life, and confesses the presence of younger energies and aspirations, which claim independent and original expression.

The effects of this have naturally been unfavourable to periodical literature. We are far from denying the excellent tone, taste, and temper, the great information, the high and available literary talent which characterise many of our leading periodicals; but we believe they suffer from the state of the parties of which they are the organs—they are marked by a want of steady adherence to ascertained principle, of coherent and strict deductions, of defined and searching discussion.

On religious subjects especially we think it painfully evident that there is not at present in this country any adequate organ for the expression and instruction of the many minds which are trying to combine with a habit of free inquiry the faithful adherence to realised and definite truth. The very aim at comprehensive principles is not recognised in most quarters; and in others the feeling of reverence, and the real existence of objects for reverence, seem to be altogether disregarded.

The selection of our name is no accident. Having a rooted faith in all indigenous products of thought and feeling, we conceive that too foreign a cast has been imparted to the character of our Christianity by the historical accidents of its introduction into this country. Neither Catholicism nor Protestantism is the growth of English soil; and probably not till Christian truth has shaped itself afresh under the home conditions of affection and character, will the religious *malaise* of our society cease. The "National Review" will interpret, it is believed, the deliberate faith of most cultivated English laymen, however now scattered among different churches—a faith that fears no reality, and will permanently endure no fiction. No one who recognises in Historic Christianity God's highest witness and revelation, can suppose that the world and the human mind are, or ever were abandoned by their divine and living guide; and we believe that, to ignore or to disown the traces of His agency in the excellence and truth of every age, is not piety, but treason to His spirit. To preserve, in our treatment of philosophical or historical theology, the tone of reverence which is due to the earnest convictions of others, will be to us no artificial self-restraint, but the expression of natural disposition. With two things only, in this relation, we profess to keep no terms—the concealed indifference, which, as its humour changes, pets or persecutes all faiths alike; and the insolent dogmatism which treats eternal truth as a private and exclusive property. Believing that in this country, amid all the clamour of sects, the religion of widest range and deepest seat is as yet without a voice or name, we aspire, in this department of our work, to help it into adequate expression.

As Englishmen, we place unbounded confidence in the bases of English character—its moderation and versatility; its firm hold on reality; its reverence for law and right; its historical tenacity; its aversion to *a priori* politics, and to revolutions generated out of speculative data.

We think, however, that even here there is room for a more constant reference to general principle than is now usual in this country. Many of our most influential organs seem to us to wander into discussions of business and detail, which may be useful in the narrow circles of official and merely political society, but are scarcely suited to the perusal of thoughtful and able men in the country at large, whose occupations prevent their following the minutiae of transitory discussion, but who wish to be guided to general conclusions on important topics, and whose incalculable influence on public opinion makes it most important to give them the means of arriving at just conclusions.

We conceive the office of theory in such matters not to be, as was once thought, the elaborate construction of paper constitutions for all ages and all countries; but rather to ascertain and clearly define the conditions under which the various national characters and institutions have developed themselves; and to deduce, if possible, with fulness and sequence the rationale of the suitability of each polity to its appropriate nation. We would neither confine our political sympathies at home, nor carry our political doctrines ruthlessly and indiscriminately abroad. We feel no vocation for any sort of cosmopolitan propagandism, which would merge the distinctions of race in the common features of humanity; and would assume that what is good for us must be good for all, without regard to intrinsic character or historic antecedents. But we do acknowledge and will enforce those mutual claims of sympathy and duty between nations which no division of the great human family can guiltlessly evade, believing that the virtue and well-being of States is forfeited, not fostered, by selfish exclusiveness, as surely as the egotist, most studious of his own happiness, finds it soonest waste away. The present existing crisis may not be the most favourable for the prosecution of internal reforms; but the prospect of European danger, and the appeal to all classes for noble sacrifices, which have done so much to sweep away the dissensions of sect and party, and to make the whole empire conscious once more of the pulsation of a common heart, have, we think, created a conjuncture pre-eminently favourable to the ripening of national sentiment, and the abatement of artificial divisions; and a survey of our institutions and relations, while the dominant temper is thus genial and generous, may prepare a body of opinion uncorrupted by narrow prejudices or selfish claims.

For the working classes we confidently anticipate a social condition far in advance of their present state; we have earnestly at heart the people's happiness and the people's elevation; but we shall not allow our warm sympathies and earnest wishes in this direction to betray us into any faithless compromise of the principles of economic science.

Our object in literature will be analogous to our aim in politics. We wish as before to secure a more constant reference to ascertained principle than we think is now common; but, at the same time, we shall not try to apply arbitrary canons to all writers and all ages, but rather to examine and describe the real features of great literary nations and writers, and explain the manner in which the genius and circumstances of each have influenced the works they have bequeathed to us.

In two points, moreover, it will be our endeavour to avoid errors which have been much and justly complained of in the conduct of other quarterly organs. We purpose to study brevity on all topics which will not justify length—and to give to the lighter departments of Literature that share to which they are fairly entitled in a periodical which aspires to please and aid the general reader, as well as to interest the studious one.

Like most other Quarterly Journals, the "National Review" will not be able to find room for more than a selection from the works which from time to time appear. We must endeavour to excel by making that selection judicious. We shall, however, endeavour to give a systematic summary of the new publications on topics insufficiently noticed by the daily and weekly journals—especially Theology and Mental and Political Philosophy. We shall likewise give a list of the books appearing in each quarter which seem suitable for Reading Societies, and are most likely to interest the general reader.

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